Hafa Adai!

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Second local stimulus OK'd

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres approved Thursday last week the implementation of the second Local Economic Impact Payment that will give $500 to each eligible filer and dependent in the CNMI, according to Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig yesterday.

Atalig

Atalig said the second local stimulus will be released via debit cards that will be issued within the next three to four weeks, or by mid-June.

He said Torres, along with then-acting Finance secretary Margaret C. Torres and Division of Revenue and Tax director Tracy Norita, executed the implementation of the second stimulus.

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HONORING WWII VETERANS

A day before Memorial Day, American Memorial Park rangers and their volunteers set up a total of 450 luminaria last Sunday to commemorate the American servicemen who lost their lives during the World War II Marianas Campaign. The luminaria were lit up in the colors of the American flag. Three rows and 60 columns of red bags and three rows and 60 columns of white luminaria represented the U.S. flag, with each luminarium representing 10 soldiers.

ANGEL LI

Palacios collapses mid-testimony

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios was rushed to the Commonwealth Health Center yesterday after he collapsed during a break while giving testimony in the criminal court proceedings versus Gov. Ralph DLG Torres at the Guma Hustisia in Susupe.

Palacios

Palacios, who was the first witness to be called to the stand during an evidentiary hearing, had just asked the judge for a brief break when he fell to the ground on his back, which caused a frenzy in the courtroom as members of the audience rushed to Palacios' aid.

Superior Court judge pro tem Alberto Tolentino immediately ordered everyone in the audience to vacate the courtroom as Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services EMTs were called to transport Palacios to CHC.

In a brief statement from Palacios' lawyer, Michael Evangelista, he said Palacios suffered from what is believed to

See PALACIOS on Page 4

DPS chief a no-show again at budget hearing

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Like last year, Department of Public Safety Commissioner Robert Guerrero did not show up at a budget hearing for DPS before the House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee yesterday afternoon.

Guerrero

The hearing did not last long as committee chair Rep. Donald Manglona (Ind-Rota) decided after meeting with committee members to resume the hearing on Friday at 2:30pm in order for Guerrero to appear as they have many

See DPS on Page 4

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
- **Red:** Least safe
- **Orange**
- **Yellow**
- **Blue**
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

IPI and CCC head for settlement; TRO extended anew

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The temporary restraining order granted in favor of Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC and Best Sunshine International Ltd. against the Commonwealth Casino Commission has been extended another 30 days as parties in the case work toward a settlement.

According to an order from U.S. District Court for the

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INSIDE

NATION
For Robb Elementary School students, the start of this summer break began with funerals.
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GOOD HOUSEKEEPING
Companies explain how far your dollar stretches when it comes to enhancing your home's curb appeal.
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LIFE & STYLE
A man disguised as an old woman in a wheelchair threw a piece of cake at the Mona Lisa.
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SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

Local

USCIS updates employers on CW-1 visa 'touchback' rule

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) participates in the May 2022 general membership meeting of the Society for Human Resources Management at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Grand Ballroom last week.

BEA CABRERA

Mark Graham of U.S. Customs and Immigration recently updated CNMI employers on the CW-1 touchback rule at the general membership meeting of the Society for Human Resources Management last week at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Grand Ballroom in Garapan.

Graham reiterated the amended rules released in August 2020, where USCIS modified its policy on implementing the requirement that non-immigrant workers must leave the United States for at least 30 days after two renewals of their CNMI-Only Transitional Worker (CW-1) visa classification.

"This will apply on petitions that were approved on or before June 18, 2020…as they are considered a consecutive petition validity period. …A petition approved for consular processing will also be considered a consecutive petition validity period if there is not at least a one-day gap between the ending validity date of the preceding petition and the starting validity date of the petition requesting consular processing," he said.

"If a CW-1 worker had been approved through Sept. 20, 2022, a subsequent consular processing must be requested and approved for a start date on or after Oct. 2,2022, to be considered non-consecutive," he added.

According to the USCIS website, USCIS used to count all consecutive petition validity periods, even those approved prior to June 18, 2020, and that the amendment was due to COVID-19 concerns to help minimize "potential travel disruptions and delays" on the workers' part that will impact their employers, CNMI businesses, and the economy.

As Graham explained, a foreign worker must exit the CNMI and complete the required touchback under the following conditions:

If the initial petition validity is from Oct. 1, 2020, to Sept. 30,2021, second petition validity is from Oct. 1, 2021, to Sept. 30, 2022, and third petition validity is from Oct. 1, 2022, to Sept. 30, 2023, then the worker must depart for at least 30 days after Sept. 30, 2023, before new CW-1 petition is filed.

If the initial petition validity is from Oct. 1, 2020, to Sept. 30, 2021, second petition validity is from July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022 (change of employer with one year and nine-month extension of stay), and third petition validity is from July 1, 2022, to Dec. 31, 2022 (six-month validity), then the worker must depart for at least 30 days after Dec. 31, 2022, before new CW-1 petition is filed.

If the initial petition validity is from Oct. 1, 2020, to Sept. 30, 2021, second petition validity is from Oct. 1, 2021, to Sept. 30, 2022, and third petition validity is from Jan. 1, 2023, to Dec. 31, 2023, then the third petition was non-consecutive, so the worker is eligible for two more consecutive petition validity periods before temporary departure is required.

If the initial petition is from Oct. 1, 2020, to Sept. 30,2021, second petition validity is from Oct. 1, 2021, to Sept. 30, 2022, and third petition validity is from Oct. 2, 2022, to Sept. 30, 2023 (with consular processing), then the third petition was non-consecutive and the worker is eligible for two more consecutive petition validity periods before temporary departure is required.

According to Graham, a beneficiary may not be granted a CW-1 status beyond three consecutive petition validity period, "unless the beneficiary has departed and remained outside of the United States for a continuous period of at least 30 days after the expiration of the third consecutive petition validity period and before the filing of any new petition on behalf of the beneficiary."

"This requirement does not apply to CW-1 long term workers who were admitted to the CNMI or otherwise granted status as a CW-1 worker during fiscal year 2015 and during each fiscal years 2016 through 2018," he added.

Graham said that if there are multiple beneficiaries on the same petition that have been granted CW-1 status for a different number of consecutive petition validity periods, USCIS will consider the petition individually and subject to partial approval. "The temporary departure requirement will apply no matter how much time was granted to any of the three previously approved petitions."

He added that the temporary departure requirement does not officially apply to CW-2 dependents. "This is a temporary departure required of the worker himself, so it does not apply to the CW-2 dependent. However, that dependent with CW-2 status generally expires on the same day as the CW-1 status expires and can be extended if the CW-1 status is extended as well. In a way, a CW-2 dependent is impacted by the temporary departure requirement…so it technically applies as they are very tied together."

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), who participated in the meeting via video call, also gave an update on the current status of H.R. 560 or the Northern Mariana Islands Legal Residents Relief Act of 2021, a bill he introduced in the U.S. Congress on January 28, 2021.

He said the bill has some bipartisan support as the substance was reasonable and should not affect migration into the United States. He added that some Republicans were open to an expedited procedure for passing the bill, and that he is continuously working on it.

H.R. 560 is a path for qualified individuals that have been lawfully present in the CNMI on certain dates and have continually and lawfully resided in the CNMI from Nov. 28, 2009, through June 25, 2019. This bill will allow eligible individuals to obtain Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands resident status, provides a path for holders of such status to U.S. permanent resident status, and will allow eligible CNMI-only transitional workers to receive government relief or assistance in connection with a declared emergency.

NMTI
NORTHERN MARIANAS TECHNICAL INSTITUTE
P.O. Box 504880 Saipan MP 96950
Tel. No.: (670) 235-6684

Board of Trustees Regular Meeting

NMTI Campus, Lower Base
June 3, 2022 @ 1:30 p.m.

AGENDA

I. Call to Order
II. Adoption of Agenda
III. Adoption of Minutes
  a. February 24, 2022
IV. Public Comment
V. Unfinished Business
  a. CEO Evaluation
  b. FHB Account Updates
  c. Promulgation of Policies
VI. CEO's Report
VII. Treasurer's Report
VIII. New Business
  a. Election of Officers
IX. Announcements
X. Adjournment

‘CNMI needs more CW-1 workers due to increased level of constructions’

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
Pacific Rim president Keith J. Stewart, extreme right, answers questions during a Senate confirmation hearing Thursday. Stewart, Zenn Joseph Q. Tomokane, and Irene N. Holl were confirmed by the Senate as members of the Northern Marianas Technical Institute board of trustees.

Pacific Rim president Keith J. Stewart said Thursday that the CNMI definitely needs additional personnel—both CNMI-Only Transitional Workers (CW-1) as well as the federal H-1B—to work on an anticipated increase in the level of construction work projects in the CNMI.

In response to a question by Sen. Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) during a Senate confirmation hearing, Stewart said he believes many government projects are in the works with their designs, so he does not have a good grasp on exactly when the manpower is going to be needed. It seems, though, that a lot of workers will be coming to the CNMI for these many projects, said Stewart, who received a “yes” vote from all nine senators for his appointment to serve as a member of the Northern Marianas Technical Institute board of trustees representing Saipan.

He noted that when Pacific Rim came to work on the Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC casino/resort project in Garapan, they brought in over 300 workers from Guam to help with that project.

Stewart said that workforce coming from Guam is not available any longer.

“So any of the projects that will happen here in the CNMI are really going to need to be handled by the CNMI, either through local workforce or in my opinion, bringing in CW workers,” he said.

Citing a shortage in manpower to perform large-scale projects, among other things, Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres told the Biden administration last February about the CNMI’s need to have a permanent allotment of 3,000 CW-1 permits to support construction activities in the CNMI.

At the same meeting, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) echoed Torres position that the CNMI needs enough skilled labor or CW-1 workers to build many federally funded infrastructure projects in the CNMI.

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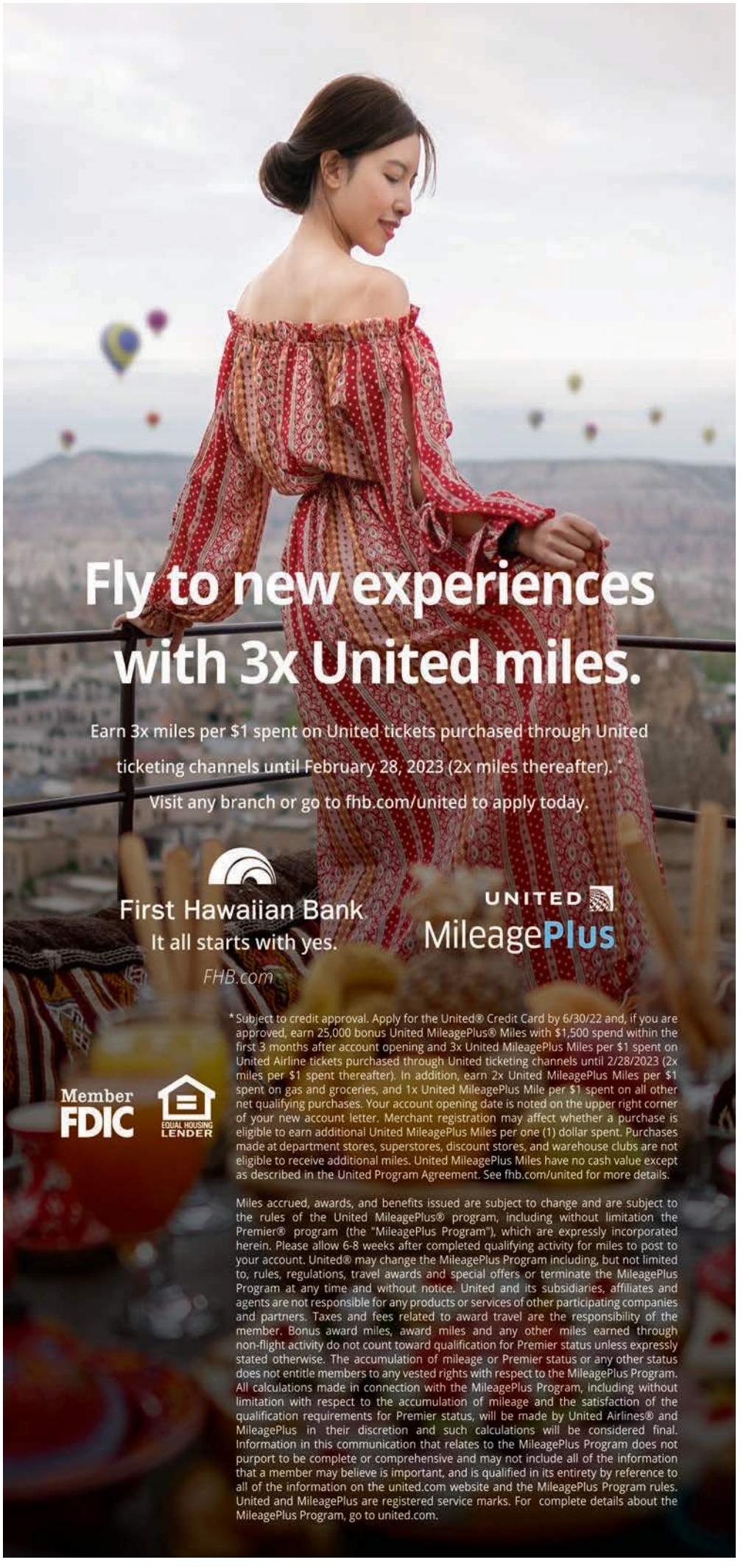
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Kilili: Permanent status bill difficult to pass, but not impossible

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) said Monday that his legislation to grant permanent status to certain Commonwealth-Only Transitional Workers and foreign investors, who were originally admitted under Commonwealth immigration law, is difficult to pass but not impossible.

Sablan said in an interview with *Saipan Tribune* that they are working on his legislation, H.R. 560, but that every time they gain one step forward, they get two steps back.

"It's an immigration bill, very difficult," he said.

The delegate said the only way he can bring the legislation to the floor is under what they call the suspension of the rules.

"That's not regular order. So for that I need 288 votes to pass the House," he said.

Sablan said he had an agreement with his colleagues on the other side of the aisle (Republican), but then some other Republicans balked.

"Of course, Republicans who support the bill cannot vote for it now because their colleagues are saying you're voting for an immigration bill. So it's politics," he said. "But we're working on it. It's not never been an issue but we're still trying."

Similar legislation passed the U.S. House of Representatives in the last Congress, but died in the Republican-controlled Senate.

The new H.R. 560, or the Northern Mariana Islands Legal Residents Relief Act of 2021, gives those eligible people for this permanent status under Public Law 116-24 another chance to apply and makes certain family members eligible too. Sablan re-introduced the bill in January 2021.

After five years, persons with Marianas permanent residence status could apply for U.S. permanent residency.

The bill also, among other things, ensures Marianas permanent residents and CWs can get relief and assistance in the aftermath of natural disasters.

IPI

From Page 1

NMI Chief Judge Ramona Manglona yesterday, the TRO that prohibits the CCC from moving forward with the revocation of IPI's license, which was set to expire on June 8, is extended for another 30 days.

"For good cause shown, the TRO issued by the court on May 23, currently set to expire on June 8, is hereby extended for a period of 30 days to expire on Friday, July 8," she said.

Manglona stated in her order that the court extends the TRO because the parties in the case have informed the court that they are making significant progress toward a settlement agreement.

"Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 65(b)(2), the court extends this TRO based on the parties' representation that they have made significant progress toward settlement and require additional time to finalize the terms of an agreement in principle and to enter a comprehensive settlement agreement memorializing those terms, to allow them time to resolve this matter without proceeding to an order to show cause hearing for a preliminary injunction," Manglona said.

The judge also placed a stay on the complaint filed by IPI until a settlement is reached, or if the parties inform the court that settlement talks have failed, among other things.

"Briefing on plaintiffs' complaint and plaintiffs' emergency motion for temporary restraining order and order compelling arbitration, including the time for defendant to file its opposition to plaintiffs' motion, is hereby stayed for a period of 30 days. The stay shall remain in place until (a) either of the parties notify this court that efforts to enter a settlement have failed and requests that a new briefing schedule and show cause hearing be set by this court; or (b) the parties request with good cause shown to further extend the stay; or (c) plaintiffs file a motion to dismiss their complaint," she said.

Manglona also set a status conference for July 1, where parties are ordered to appear and inform the court of any progress they have made.

The order to show cause hearing scheduled for June 6, has also been vacated.

Last week, Manglona granted IPI's request for a TRO to prevent CCC from holding a hearing on May 24 and 25 to revoke IPI's exclusive casino license. Manglona later extended the TRO against CCC to allow CCC to properly respond to IPI's complaint against the commission.

Manglona noted, among other things, that IPI anticipates receiving $150 million in financing before the end of May to make payments due to the CCC and other creditors to resume its operations.

CNMI Ocean Month to kick off today

The Division of Coastal Resources Management is inviting the community to the CNMI Ocean Month proclamation signing and roadside waving today, Wednesday, at 3pm at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan and are encouraged to bring posters to the roadside waving showing support of our ocean.

"In the CNMI, the ocean serves as more than just a source of sustenance and recreation, but provides a number of other valuable services to support sustainable livelihoods, coastline protection, and tourism opportunities. As such, DCRM celebrates this invaluable resource during the month of June, alongside the rest of the world," said the DCRM website.

Nationally, June is known as National Ocean Month, and June 8 is recognized as World Oceans Day.

The proclamation signing and waving will kick off the month of June with a variety of activities and events to celebrate the ocean.

For more information on the 2022 CNMI Ocean Month activities or how to get involved, contact Ocean Month co-chairs Colleen Flores at cflores@dcrm.gov.mp or Jovahna Taitingfong at jtaitingfong@dcrm.gov.mp. ***(Leigh Gases)***

PALACIOS

From Page 1

have been a back spasm due to a pre-existing back condition. Evangelista noted that Palacios was conscious and responsive after the collapse.

Torres' counsel, Viola Alepuyo, had just called Palacios to the witness stand for the evidentiary hearing on Torres' motion to disqualify the Office of the Attorney General from prosecuting the case. Mid-way through Alepuyo's questioning, Palacios "looked uncomfortable," according to members of the audience. Palacios, who was visibly struggling to stay upright, asked Tolentino if he could take a brief break from the questioning, which the judge immediately granted. However, just seconds after the judge called for a recess, Palacios fell to the ground .

In a written statement issued by Palacios' office, it said that Palacios experienced numbness and significant discomfort in his lower back at the Guma Hustisia as he delivered his testimony.

"Lt. Gov. Palacios is in good spirits and is resting under continued observation of our highly qualified healthcare professionals and [the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.]. While he is still experiencing pain in his lower back, he remains in stable condition and wishes to thank judge tempore Alberto E. Tolentino, the CNMI Marshals, court staff, Emergency Medical Technicians for their quick response. The Lt. Governor and his wife, Wela, thank you for your continued prayers and will continue to provide updates as they become available," the statement said.

Torres also released a statement: "It was an unfortunate situation today. First lady Diann and I ask for the CNMI to pray for Lt. Gov. Arnold Palacios. We extend our deepest thoughts and prayers for him for a full and speedy recovery."

Palacios had been ordered to appear in court to testify whether he, during the times he served as acting governor, ever received legal advice from the OAG or AG Edward Manibusan himself, which would prove a conflict of interest exists and the OAG, headed by Manibusan, should be disqualified from prosecuting the case.

Although the entire courtroom was left shaken following the incident, Tolentino later proceeded with the evidentiary hearing, with Torres' team calling on Manibusan to the stand to testify as to whether he had ever provided Torres with legal advice, which establishes a conflict of interest in the case.

However, after over five hours of questioning led by Vince Torres, Manibusan had yet to give a definitive answer as to whether he did or did not give Torres any official legal advice on the CNMI's current travel policy, or any CNMI policy.

The evidentiary hearing is set to continue today.

DPS

From Page 1

questions for him.

If Guerrero fails to appear this Friday, Manglona said they have the option to subpoena him to show up.

At the start of the hearing, Manglona said DPS has submitted a request of $9.97 million based on Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' proposal, with general fund and the American Rescue Plan Act funding, yet the administration proposes $6.89 million and this translates to a shortfall of $3.08 million.

Appearing for DPS were administration director Kaye Inos, Bureau of Motor Vehicle director Juana Leon Guerrero, and human resources manager Esther Delos Reyes.

Inos said they are in acceptance of the governor's proposal in its entirety.

If so, Manglona asked, how would DPS operate with this $3 million shortfall, based on what the governor had proposed and what the department had asked for.

Inos said they have a little remaining money for guard services fee that they have been receiving for three years and money from other special accounts. "You know, we understand that the CNMI government is not making a lot of money now. There's a lot of things that we can do without," she said.

Later, Manglona asked why the commissioner is not in the chamber. Inos said Guerrero told her that he had a prior scheduled meeting.

Manglona said they did get hold of one of the officers, who had confirmed the commissioner's attendance so he just wanted to find out why he's not there. Inos said she does not know who confirmed the commissioner's attendance.

After Inos answered some questions from Rep. Corina Magofna (D-Saipan), Manglona called for a short recess as he and the members would meet in the conference room to discuss further action on how they are going to move forward with the hearing.

After the short meeting, Manglona announced that this will be the second time that they've scheduled a hearing with the commissioner.

"And again, for the record, the commissioner is not here today due to a prior meeting that was scheduled. But it seems like a lot of the questions that the members have is something that the commissioner will need to answer for himself," Manglona said.

The chair said it's been decided that they will adjourn the meeting and call for another one this Friday, where an option of subpoena will be on the agenda should the commissioner fail to appear before the committee.

Rep. Leila Staffler (D-Saipan) said it is unfortunate that they are not able to speak with the commissioner for a second year in a row.

"And I fully support rescheduling as there are many questions that we have that only he can answer. I really believe that we need to hear directly from the commissioner," Staffler said.

Manglona said they will invite the commissioner to come before the committee this Friday and still allow him to answer questions related to the budget. "If he doesn't show up then we have that option on the agenda to issue a subpoena," Manglona said.

At the Ways and Means budget hearing for DPS on June 8, 2021, Guerrero did not appear as he was on Tinian, apparently for an emergency that he needed to attend.

The hearing was continued to June 11, 2021, but Guerrero called Manglona a day before (June 10) that he is on medical leave and asked to reschedule the hearing.

Citing a lack of time, Manglona then decided not to call the commissioner to a hearing on DPS fiscal year 2022 budget.

SECOND

From Page 1

Last April, Atalig told *Saipan Tribune* that the administration cannot afford to give CNMI resident $1,000 each in the second local stimulus because that would translate to $50 million to $53 million and that amount would be too much because of the expenses the CNMI incurred due to a spike in COVID-19 cases.

The first time the CNMI government issued a local stimulus, it amounted to $500 each and totaled $26 million that went into the community to help households. The money for both local stimulus is sourced from American Rescue Plan Act funding.

With respect to the second stimulus, payment is based on the 2021 1040CM-Individual Income Tax return and follows the same eligibility guidelines as the first stimulus program.

Finance urges taxpayers who have not filed a 2021 income tax return to file in order to receive a payment.

The Division of Revenue and Tax will continue to process the stimulus cards through Dec. 31, 2022.

Finance said funds deposited into local stimulus cards will expire by Jan. 31, 2023, and will no longer be available after that date, despite the stated expiration date on the card. Finance encourages taxpayers to spend these funds within the allowable time frame.

Cards will be mailed to the address on the 2021 1040CM-Individual Income Tax return.

In order to update mailing information, taxpayers must file Form 8822 with DRT. They are also encouraged to notify the postal service of address change should cards already be mailed to the address on file.

Atalig said the purpose of the issued stimulus is for funds to be spent within the CNMI and that Finance is not liable for any unauthorized use of the card provided.

Finance encourages taxpayers experiencing issues with their card or for balance information to call the number on the back of their card.

For lost or stolen cards, taxpayers must visit DRT in person with proper identification to be issued a replacement card.

For more information, call the DRT Call Center at 664-1040.

Fuel Adjustment Charge remains the same for month of June

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. announced yesterday that the Fuel Adjustment Charge remains at $0.36225 per kilowatt-hour for the month of June.

Although there has been an increase in the Mean of Platts Singapore monthly pricing from May 2022 to June 2022 as notified by Mobil Oil Mariana Islands, Inc., the increase did not equal or exceed a 4.5% differential of the average per gallon cost of fuel.

The FAC is one of two components that make up the CUC electric kWh rate, which is used to purchase fuel. The second component is the CUC base rate, which is used to fund operations, projects, and debt service. This base rate has not been increased since April 17, 2014.

CUC is required, pursuant to an order previously issued by the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission, to adjust (up or down) the FAC pass-through rate when the Mean of Platts Singapore monthly pricing equals or exceeds a 4.5% differential of the average per gallon cost of fuel used in the calculation of the current FAC rate. ***(CUC)***

WEEKEND DRILL

The Natibu Division of the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps in the CNMI, composed of 25 cadet recruits, held its first weekend drill on Saipan last May 21 at the Northern Marianas Technical Institute in Lower Base. Cadets were issued Natibu Division t-shirts as part of an alternative uniform. The morning drill portion included Basic Military Training following the traditions of the US Navy, close order drills and Maritime nomenclature. In the afternoon, cadets learned basic Marlinspike Seamanship. To inquire or support the program, contact Ray Alvarez at (670) 989-7266 or Reno Celis at (670) 483-5674.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

DOL to conduct apprenticeship workshop

The CNMI Department of Labor will be hosting a workshop on "Constructing Apprenticeship Programs" primarily for the construction and trades industry.

The goal of the workshop is to provide information on how a registered apprenticeship program works, the benefits to employers and employees, incentives to employers, and free technical assistance. The workshop features the Apprenticeship State Expansion Program, which is an opportunity for employers to invest in their current employees with minimal to no cost to their business.

A registered apprenticeship program allows employees to obtain a nationally recognized credential from the U.S. Department of Labor after the completion of the program. The CNMI Apprenticeship State Expansion Program, under the Workforce Investment Agency Division of the CNMI Department of Labor, will assist employers and employees with technical assistance and the successful completion of their RAP credential.

"The apprenticeship program will help employers reach their workforce goals," said Labor Secretary Vicky Benavente. "Employers looking to participate in a registered apprenticeship program through the CNMI ASE Program will be able to develop and increase their employee's skills and knowledge at the completion of their program. This will also help employers to start working on their labor workforce needs as they prepare to fill the gaps left behind by the federally mandated reduction of CW1 workers."

The CNMI ASE Program is looking to expand apprenticeship programs throughout the CNMI. Although, this workshop is intended for the construction and trades industry only, there will be workshop opportunities in the future for other types of industries.

The workshop is scheduled for Tuesday, June 21, 2022, at the Pacific Islands Club, Napu Room from 8am until 12pm. Participants for the workshop may also be able to join virtually. For more information, call the CNMI Apprenticeship Program at (670) 664-1712/664-3196 or email apprenticeship@dol.gov.mp. ***(DOL)***

CPA issues update on Saipan commuter terminal project

The architectural/engineering design services for the planned new commuter terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport are now substantially complete. The final plans and specifications are expected to be transmitted to the Commonwealth Ports Authority in early June and the project should be advertised shortly after.

This were learned yesterday in an update the CPA released about the project. In addition, the news release stated that the project's A&E design services were performed by GHD and Construction Management Services have already been awarded to Hofschneider Engineering Corp.

The new facility will be approximately 19,000 square feet and will include four check-in counters and airline office spaces, a food and beverage concession space, a larger holding room, a larger baggage claim area, and space for U.S. Customs Border Protection processing. The new terminal will also include modern restrooms, adequate seating, and comply with American with Disabilities Act requirements. Construction of a new covered walkway from the commuter to the upper bus parking, which was also damaged by Typhoon Yutu, is also within the project's scope.

CPA notified the public in May 2019 that it will demolish the previous commuter terminal so it could build a larger one to facilitate interisland travel between the islands of Saipan, Rota, and Tinian. The existing commuter was heavily damaged by Super Typhoon Yutu. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS | OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM
JUAN A. SABLAN BUILDING | CALLER BOX 10007 | SAIPAN, MP 96950 | 670.664.2417 | INFO@HM.GOV.MP

INVITATION FOR BID
HOPE Recovery Center Typhoon Shutters Project
ITB22-GOV-42200109

The Office of the Governor, Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), through the Governor's Authorized Representative (collectively, "Commonwealth"), is soliciting sealed bids for the supply and installation of typhoon shutters at the HOPE Recovery Center in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The ITB package will be available from the Office of the Governor, HMGP Office, Juan A. Sablan Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan MP 96950 starting **May 26, 2022**, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on Government observed holidays upon presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CNMI Treasurer by cash or credit in the amount of $50.00 for one ITB package set.

All interested bidders must include an Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC) in their bid package to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner, Pohnpei Way, Capitol Hill, Saipan MP 96950. Bidding procedures shall fully comply with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, as revised through May 24, 2001, and with the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (NMIAC) §70-30-3-725 Gratuities and Kickbacks and §70.30.3-730 Prohibition Against Contingent Fees. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor, and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the CNMI.

There will be a pre-bid meeting for this project on **June 10, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. ChST at the HOPE Recovery Center located in Marpi, Saipan**. Questions or requests for clarification shall be submitted in writing to Ms. Leona Deleon Guerrero, Program Manager, via email at ldlguerrero@omb.gov.mp no later than **June 22, 2022**. Responses to questions or clarification will be shared with all prospective bidders.

Sealed bids must be marked **"ITB22-GOV-42200109 HOPE Recovery Center Typhoon Shutters Project"**. One original and three copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement Services, 1st Floor Horiguchi Building, Kopa Di Oru Street, Garapan, Saipan MP 96950, no later than **9:30 a.m. ChST July 8, 2022.** Bidders outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days to receive their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement Services no later than **9:30 a.m. ChST July 8, 2022**, must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515 or via email to bidintent@dof.gov.mp. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **July 8, 2022**, and mailed to the Director of Procurement Services P.O. BOX 510008 CK, Saipan MP 96950 and the bid documents must be received no later than **July 20, 2022**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be a cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly open and read at the Division of Procurement Services, 1st Floor Horiguchi Building, Kopa Di Oru Street, Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950, at **9:30 a.m. ChST, July 22, 2022**. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be open and read at **9:30 a.m. ChST, July 8, 2022.**

Bids higher than Twenty-five Thousand Dollars ($25,000.00), bid security of fifteen percent (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the proposal. Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashier's check, or other forms acceptable to the Government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety satisfactory to the Attorney General. Checks must be made payable to the **CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the cheque: "Credit Account No. 44660"**. If a bid bond is submitted, it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 70-30.3-245. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, **each equal to 100%** of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00.

Before the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:
a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has the authority to issue a bond in the CNMI, and
b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceeds the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the Procurement Services Director, to substitute an acceptable bond before executing a contract. Acceptable assets are only 1) Cash, 2) U.S. Government Securities, 3) Stocks and Bonds traded on U.S. Security Exchange, 4) Real property owned in fee simple in the U.S.; and 5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completing this project is 180 calendar days upon issuing a Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be $100.00/day.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the CNMI.

The Government reserves the right to reject any proposals, in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfection in a proposal if in the best interest of the CNMI. All bids shall become the property of the CNMI government.

Patrick C. Guerrero
Governor's Authorized Representative

Francisco C. Aguon, Acting Director
CNMI Procurement Services

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS | OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM
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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
HOPE Recovery Center Generator and Generator House Project
RFP22-GOV-42200110

The Office of the Governor, Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), through the Governor's Authorized Representative (collectively, "Commonwealth") is soliciting sealed proposals from qualified contractors to deliver, supply, and install a generator set and renovate the existing generator house at the HOPE Recovery Center, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, currently in effect, and with the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (NMIAC) §70-30-3-725 Gratuities and Kickbacks and §70.30.3-730 Prohibition Against Contingent Fees. Public Law 15-95 Local Preference Act, as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the CNMI.

The project package will be available beginning **May 26, 2022** between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the HMGP Office, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan. A pre-proposal meeting will be held at the **HOPE Recovery Center in Marpi conference room at 10:00 a.m. on June 13, 2022.**

Questions about this request for proposal shall be addressed to the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Office attn.: Leona Deleon Guerrero, Program Manager, via email at ldlguerrero@omb.gov.mp no later than **June 22, 2022**.

The total proposal length shall not exceed 15 pages in length. A contractor that submits a proposal as a prime contractor cannot also submit as a subcontractor on another proposal. However, as a subcontractor, a company may be included in multiple proposals by different contractors.

Proposals will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

1. Qualifications and experience on similar projects	30%
2. Work load and resources to accomplish work	10%
3. Project Approach & Schedule	10%
4. Cost	50%

Performance time for completion of this project is 210 calendar days upon issuance of notice to proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be $100.00/day.

Discussions shall be conducted with the top 3 ranked contractors. After a selection is made, negotiations will be conducted with the highest qualified contractor to determine the final fair and reasonable price of the contract for the work to be performed. The successful proposers will be subjected to a responsibility and responsiveness determination in compliance with Section 3-301 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations.

Proposals must be sealed and marked **RFP22-GOV-42200110 HOPE Recovery Center Generator and Generator House Project**. For proposers within the CNMI, one original and three (3) copies of the proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement Services, 1st Floor Horiguchi Building, Kopa Di Oru Street, Garapan, Saipan MP 96950 no later than **10:00 a.m. ChST, July 8, 2022**. Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of intent to propose. Notices of intent to propose must be received by the Director of Procurement Services no later than **10:00 a.m., ChST, July 8, 2022** and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to bidintent@dof.gov.mp.

For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and three (3) copies of the sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **July 8, 2022**, and mailed to the Director of Procurement Services P.O. Box 510008 CK, Saipan MP 96950 and the proposal documents must be received no later than **July 20, 2022**. Failure to submit the required number of copies of the proposal may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfection in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so would be in the best interests of the CNMI government. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI government.

Patrick C. Guerrero
Governor's Authorized Representative

Francisco C. Aguon, Acting Director
CNMI Procurement Services

China falls short on big Pacific deal but finds smaller wins

By AILEEN TORRES-BENNETT and NICK PERRY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

In this photo supplied by the Fiji government, China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi, left, and Fiji's Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama, right, speak at joint press conference at the Pacific Islands Foreign Ministers' meeting in Suva, Fiji, Monday, May 30, 2022. AP

SUVA, Fiji (AP)—China fell short Monday on a bold plan to have 10 Pacific nations endorse a sweeping new agreement covering everything from security to fisheries as some in the region expressed deep concerns.

But there have been plenty of smaller wins for China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi as he continues an island-hopping tour of the region.

Wang was in Fiji to co-host a key meeting with the foreign ministers from the 10 island nations.

At an unusual news conference afterward, Wang and Fijian Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama spoke for about 30 minutes and then abruptly left the stage as reporters tried to shout out questions. That left many details of what transpired at the meeting undisclosed.

But it was clear the nations hadn't endorsed China's plan.

"As always, we put consensus first among our countries throughout any discussion on new regional agreements," Bainimarama said.

While there have been growing international concerns about Beijing's military and financial ambitions in the region, many Fijians see a benefit in foreign investment wherever it comes from, so long as it uplifts the people.

Georgina Matilda said that working for Chinese infrastructure company China Railway meant that she could put food on the table for her children.

Another Fijian, Miliane Rokolita, said China's increased presence had benefited people.

"They bring us bigger houses. They bring money in Fiji. They're good people," Rokolita said.

Documents obtained by The Associated Press indicate Wang had hoped to get the 10 nations to endorse a pre-written agreement as part of a joint communique after the meeting.

But Wang was unable to get the consensus he'd sought.

David Panuelo, president of the Federated States of Micronesia, told other Pacific leaders he wouldn't endorse the plan, warning them in a letter that it would needlessly heighten geopolitical tensions and threaten regional stability.

Panuelo called it "the single most game-changing proposed agreement in the Pacific in any of our lifetimes" and said it "threatens to bring a new Cold War era at best, and a World War at worst."

During the news conference Monday, Wang listed some areas where the countries had been able to find agreement and said he'd keep working on others.

"After the meeting, China will release its own position paper on our own positions, propositions, and cooperation proposals with Pacific Island countries," Wang said through an interpreter. "And going forward, we will continue to have ongoing and in-depth discussions and consultations to shape more consensus."

While China may have fallen short on its plans for a grand multilateral agreement, it has been signing smaller bilateral agreements with the Pacific nations every day during Wang's tour.

For instance, on Friday Wang visited Kiribati, where a key fishing ground the size of California is at stake. Kiribati's government said afterwards the two nations had signed 10 agreements ranging from cooperating on economic goals to building a specific bridge.

Kiribati's government did not immediately respond to a request by the AP to provide details of the agreements.

In his news conference, Wang said "some have been questioning why China has been so active in supporting Pacific Island countries."

He said China had long championed other developing nations both in the Pacific and around the world, something it had started doing in the 1960s when it helped African nations build railways.

"My advice for those people is: Don't be too anxious and don't be too nervous," Wang said.

After the news conference, China's ambassador to Fiji Qian Bo took a few questions from reporters, saying there had been "some concerns on specific issues" from some of the 10 nations about the proposed agreement.

"We never impose anything on other countries, let alone to our developing friends and small island countries," Qian said.

He said China would try to release the position paper mentioned by Wang within about a week. He said parts of the agreement were simply an offer from China to provide assistance to the nations.

A draft of the proposed multilateral agreement obtained by the AP shows that China wants to train Pacific police officers, team up on "traditional and non-traditional security" and expand law enforcement cooperation.

China also wants to jointly develop a marine plan for fisheries—which would include the Pacific's lucrative tuna catch—increase cooperation on running the region's internet networks, and set up cultural Confucius Institutes and classrooms. China also mentions the possibility of setting up a free trade area with the Pacific nations.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said in a speech Thursday that China posed an even more serious long-term threat than Russia.

"China is the only country with both the intent to reshape the international order—and, increasingly, the economic, diplomatic, military, and technological power to do it," he said. "Beijing's vision would move us away from the universal values that have sustained so much of the world's progress over the past 75 years."

China hit back, saying the U.S. was spreading disinformation. The aim of Blinken's speech was to "contain and suppress China's development and uphold U.S. hegemony," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said. "We strongly deplore and reject this."

China says that in the Pacific, cooperation between Beijing and the island nations has been expanding in a development that's welcomed by those countries.

In Fiji, the economy was hit hard by the coronavirus pandemic. The vital tourism industry shut down overnight and GDP shrank by more than 15%. As the world reopens, Fiji is trying to bounce back, and many are happy to see China write the checks.

China's involvement in the region doesn't come completely out of the blue. There has been a long history of Chinese immigration in Fiji, with many Chinese Fijians running corner stores and other businesses.

"There's a good side and a bad side," said Nora Nabukete, a student at the University of the South Pacific. "We get more money into the economy, being pumped in and stuff, but then there's also a side where they bring in a lot of new things that are new to the Fijian culture."

Nabukete worries about the seedier side that has been associated with Chinese investment in Fiji—a supposed influx of gambling, gangs and drugs.

She said that aligning with China could mean that Fiji creates tension with the United States and other Western nations, and for that reason, she hoped that Fiji wouldn't endorse Wang's agreement.

"There's so much more to lose in the future than what we're experiencing now if Fiji does sign," she said.

Precinct 2 cleanups net two-and-a-half tons of trash

The offices of Rep. Christina M. Sablan (D-Saipan) and John Paul Sablan (R-Saipan) teamed up to collect 4,960 lbs of household waste, yard debris, junk appliances, and metals during the Precinct 2 Spring Cleanup last May 21.

This weekend event marked the second time in the past six months that the two Precinct 2 representatives teamed up to collect trash from the community. The Precinct 2 End-of-Year Cleanup in December collected 2,200 lbs household waste and roadside litter. In total, the Precinct 2 cleanup events have collected over three-and-a-half tons of trash with the help of residents and volunteers.

Volunteers and organizers take a break from the action during the Precinct 2 Spring Cleanup in Chalan Kanoa last May 21, 2022. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

"In just four hours last Saturday, we disposed of two huge dumpster bins and several trailers full of household waste, yard debris, metals, and junk appliances. Typhoon season is around the corner and this is a good time to clean up around our homes and villages," Rep. Tina Sablan said.

Residents off-load their trash into the bins provided by the offices of Reps. Christina M. Sablan and John Paul Sablan during the Precinct 2 Spring Cleanup in Chalan Kanoa last May 21, 2022. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The next Precinct 2 cleanup event is planned for the next quarter.

The Precinct 2 representatives thanked their hardworking staff, the Lions Club volunteers, the Department of Public Works, Artman Corp., the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa for the use of the land in front of the cemetery, and the residents of Precinct 2 for making the event a success. ***(PR)***

EA, partners look at emerging campaign to overrule *Insular Cases*

Weare

Esquivel

Fiol-Matta

Ortiz

Rodríguez

Equally American, in collaboration with Hispanic Federation, American Civil Liberties Union, and LatinoJustice PRLDEF, held a virtual discussion last Tuesday on the impact of *United States v. Vaello Madero* decision and the emerging campaign to overrule the *Insular Cases* once and for all. Following last month's decision in *United States v. Vaello Madero*, it is more evident than ever that the United States has a *colonies* problem.

In *Vaello Madero*, the U.S. Supreme Court delivered a damaging blow to equity in U.S. territories, reversing two lower court decisions and ruling over a powerful dissent from Justice Sonia Sotomayor to state that Congress can constitutionally discriminate against U.S. citizens living in the territories to deny them access to Supplemental Security Income and other federal benefits. This highlights the need for the Supreme Court to overrule the *Insular Cases*, a series of racist Plessy-era decisions that solidified a colonial, unequal framework for governing U.S. territories, including Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Northern Mariana Islands.

"The *Insular Cases* are a stain on our country and cannot be squared with our most basic democratic and constitutional values. It's long past time that the Supreme Court, President Biden, and Congress all condemn the racist *Insular Cases* and the colonial framework they established," said Neil Weare, president and founder of Equally American.

"The *United States v. Vaello Madero* decision underscored that in order to end discrimination against U.S. citizens that reside in the territories, the court must address the backbone of such discriminatory practices by overturning the *Insular Cases*. While the Supreme Court has limited the *Insular Cases'* reach and stressed that they should not be expanded, courts continue to consider and cite them in cases for the overstated proposition that only 'fundamental' rights apply in the territories. These century-old, racist decisions belong in our history books, not relied upon by the federal government to prevent U.S. citizens in the territories from equitable access to federal safety-net programs like SSI, Medicaid, and food stamps. The rationale in the *Insular Cases*, and the racist assumptions they rely upon, have no place in our law," said Laura M. Esquivel, vice president of Federal Policy and Advocacy, Hispanic Federation.

"The Territory Clause of the Constitution is rooted in imperialism and racism. Court decisions like those for the *Insular Cases* have supported this reading and must be rejected once and for all. Other than the original 13 colonies, every state came into the union first as a 'territory.' Their residents, mostly white, were afforded the full protections of the Constitution. But when the U.S. acquired overseas territories at the turn of the 20th century, those inhabitants were nonwhite and were deemed 'alien races' and 'savage tribes.' Then the Constitution did not 'follow the flag,' and those residents of territories remain second-class citizens to this day. It's time to put an end to this distinction, so the principle of equal rights can finally come closer to reality for all," said Lía Fiol-Matta, senior counsel, LatinoJustice PRLDEF.

Alejandro Ortiz, senior staff attorney with the ACLU Racial Justice Program, stated, "The *Insular Cases* are unabashedly racist and still prevent millions of people—overwhelmingly, people of color—from knowing whether constitutional rights enjoyed by residents of the states apply to them. The Biden administration should publicly condemn the *Insular Cases* and stop relying on these antiquated and harmful cases in future court filings. The Supreme Court, for its part, should overrule them as soon as it has the opportunity."

"Since 2017, Hispanic Federation has been working on the ground in Puerto Rico to support the recovery after Hurricane Maria. Through that time we have definitely identified the systemic federal discrimination established by the insular cases as one of the main barriers for the protection of basic needs, human rights and dignity of the people that live in the archipelago. Regardless of the territorial relationship with the federal government, the federal government must respect our basic dignity and overrule the insular cases" stated Maritere Padilla Rodríguez, director of Policy and Advocacy of Hispanic Federation in Puerto Rico.

The next few months will determine whether Congress will finally act to extend SSI and other life-saving federal benefits to residents of U.S. territories, whether the Supreme Court will take up a case calling on it to overrule the *Insular Cases*, and whether President Biden will follow through on his commitments to Puerto Rico and prioritize ending this discriminatory treatment once and for all. ***(Equally American)***

Alex Yap to become Atkins Kroll's new president; Tracy Guerrero appointed director of Operations

TAMUNING, Guam—Atkins Kroll Inc., an Inchcape company, announced yesterday that new senior executives will lead AK into the next phase of its strategic growth plan. Alex Yap will take over the role of president when current president Wendi Herring leaves at the end of the month. Herring has been with the company since January 2021 and was instrumental in launching the company's global strategy into the business.

Yap

Yap is currently director of Retail Sales & Distribution for Borneo Motors, an Inchcape Company in Singapore. Beginning July 1 he will begin his role as president for Atkins Kroll Inc., overseeing Atkins Kroll Guam, Saipan, and Morrico Equipment. He will be based in Guam.

"I am pleased to welcome Alex to Atkins Kroll," said Inchcape managing director for Asia Developing Markets Alex Hammett. "His more than 25 years of automotive experience will be integral to our operations as we continue to our accelerated growth plan in Guam and Micronesia."

Yap currently oversees Toyota, Lexus, and Hino brands in Singapore. Throughout his career he has managed super luxury brands to include Rolls-Royce, Lamborghini, and Jaguar Land Rover. He is a graduate of SIM Global Education's Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology with a Bachelor of Business Administration and holds a Master of Business Administration in International Management. He has completed a senior executive program in Business Management from the London Business School.

New director of Operations

AK also announced the appointment of Tracy Guerrero as director of Operations for Atkins Kroll Guam and Saipan. "Tracy is a well-respected businesswoman in our region," said Herring. "Her innate knowledge of our industry and profound insights for the communities we serve will be integral to our growing operations."

Guerrero

Guerrero was most recently the corporate controller for Triple J Saipan. She also served as the chief financial officer for Northern Marianas College. She has a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of California at Berkeley and a Master of Business Administration from California State University at Hayward. ***(Atkins Kroll)***

Water service interruption in Susupe on Friday

There will be a scheduled water service interruption on Friday, June 3, 2022, from 8:30am to 3pm for Commonwealth Utilities Corp. customers in the Judiciary (Guma Hustisia) facility on Tekken Street in Susupe.

The scheduled water service interruption is to allow CUC's contractor for the Saipan Meter Installation Project to perform water system improvements at the Guma Hustisia. Water service to the affected area will resume soon eafter.

This project is part of the Islandwide Meter Installation Project to provide a more reliable water system to the people of the CNMI. It is funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and aims to address the non-revenue water problems in the CNMI.

For more information, contact the CUC Hotline (236-4333) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/). ***(PR)***

Dolphin Club Saipan resumes 6am swimming lessons

Starting today, June 1, 500 Sails and Dolphin Club Saipan will be offering weekly swim lessons every Wednesday morning at 6am at the Guma Sakman in Susupe (on the beach across from Marianas High School).

Taught by 500 Sails co-founders Emma and Peter Perez, adults and teenagers of all levels of swim ability are welcome to join the lessons, which are absolutely free and open to the public, with no reservations necessary.

Both Pete and Emma are avid swimmers and open-water swim coaches. In 2007, Pete and Emma were part of the "Chamorro Flying Proa Relay Team," the first all-Chamorro, all-family relay team to cross the English Channel. The swim measures about 21 miles in distance and averages 9 to 15 hours to complete (the team did it in 13).

The Dolphin Club Saipan is a swim program of 500 Sails that encourages people to get their bodies moving in the water by hosting and organizing open swim lessons, participating in swim meets, and other swim-related events. These activities help people to develop healthy physical habits while enjoying and deepening their relationship with the ocean.

For more information on programs, call (670) 323-7245 (SAIL), email info@500sails.org, or follow 500 Sails on Facebook and Instagram. ***(PR)***

ROBERT T. TORRES
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Telephone: (670) 234-78459 | Facsimile: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Petitioner Kimberly T. Quinto

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF PEDRO MANIBUSAN TUDELA, Decedent. : CIVIL ACTION NO. 22-0088 : AMENDED NOTICE OF HEARING AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS : DATE: JUNE 23, 2022 TIME:10:00 A.M. : JUDGE: JOSEPH N. CAMACHO

TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS, CLAIMANTS, OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE PEDRO MANIBUSAN TUDELA TO HIS ESTATE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Kimberly T. Quinto, has petitioned the Superior Court of Northern Marianas Islands to Petition to Admit Estate to Probate and for appointment of Administratrix for the Estate of Pedro Manibusan Tudela, the decedent. The Attorney for Petitioner is Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, whose address is Plate Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya) P.O. Box 500730, Saipan, MP 96950.

The hearing on the Petition is scheduled to be heard on the date at the time set forth above at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands. All interested persons and entities should appear at the hearing.

Any and all persons, creditors, or entities having claims against the deceased or his Estate are hereby required by the law to file their claims with the Clerk of Court within sixty (60) days of this publication or claim(s) will be baited. A copy of your claims should also be sent to ROBERT T. TORRES, Attorney at Law, at the address herein-above indicated.

Respectfully submitted this 31th day of May 2022.

/s/_____
CLERK OF COURT/DEPUTY CLERK

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport
P.O. Box 501055 Saipan MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 | Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail: cpa.admin@pticom.com
Website: https://cnmiports.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 02-2022

Opening date: May 16, 2022 **Closing date: June 03, 2022**

Positions: SAIPAN:
(1) Custodial-I

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the ***CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport.*** Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than ***5:00P.M. on Friday, June 03, 2022***.

Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin. Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.tenorio@cnmiports.com or by phone at (670)237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Opinion

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EDITORIAL

National suicide plays out one murderous mass shooting at a time

Perhaps this is how it all ends—self-government, self-defense, self-control, liberty, unity, family. Perhaps the fate of the nation is to watch its soul die along with the at least 19 students and two adults shot to death Tuesday at an elementary school in Uvalde, Texas. This is us, the American people, on both sides of that gun—and countless other guns on countless playgrounds, shopping centers, streets and homes, killing our children, ourselves and each other. Killing our future.

This is who we are. This is what we have become. We can no longer send our children to school without pangs of anxiety that they will be in the line of fire in what ought to be havens of safety and learning. Nor can we find refuge in churches, mosques or synagogues, or in shopping centers, or at baby showers, picnics or parties. When we feel in danger, we get out our guns. Our guns put us in danger, so we get more.

Abraham Lincoln, in his earliest known public address, said that the still-young United States could never be brought down by a foreign enemy. It was 1838, he was only 28, and the Civil War was still nearly a quarter-century into the future. But he was correct when he told his Lyceum audience that "All the armies of Europe, Asia and Africa combined, with all the treasure of the earth (our own excepted) in their military chest; with a Buonaparte for a commander, could not by force, take a drink from the Ohio, or make a track on the Blue Ridge, in a trial of a thousand years."

No, any danger to the U.S. comes from within. "If destruction be our lot, we must ourselves be its author and finisher," he said. "As a nation of freemen, we must live through all time, or die by suicide."

He was president by the time the nation had its most serious brush with suicide over the question of whether freedom means some people have the liberty to buy, own and exploit others, or whether it instead means all must be free. The Civil War was straightforward, with a clear enemy—even though it was ourselves—that wore different uniforms and could be defeated on the battlefield.

Now it's not so simple. We are again our own enemies, but what are we killing ourselves for? We don't even know. We just keep getting our guns, loading them and pulling the trigger. We elect political leaders who promise action, but we never hold them accountable. In any case, the killings continue. This may be the suicide of which Lincoln spoke. This may be why we die, not for a great cause but for a loss of love and respect for one another and the dream that bound our forebears together.

Is this where the American dream dies—not on a battlefield, but in our own homes and schools, by our own hands and the hands of our neighbors?

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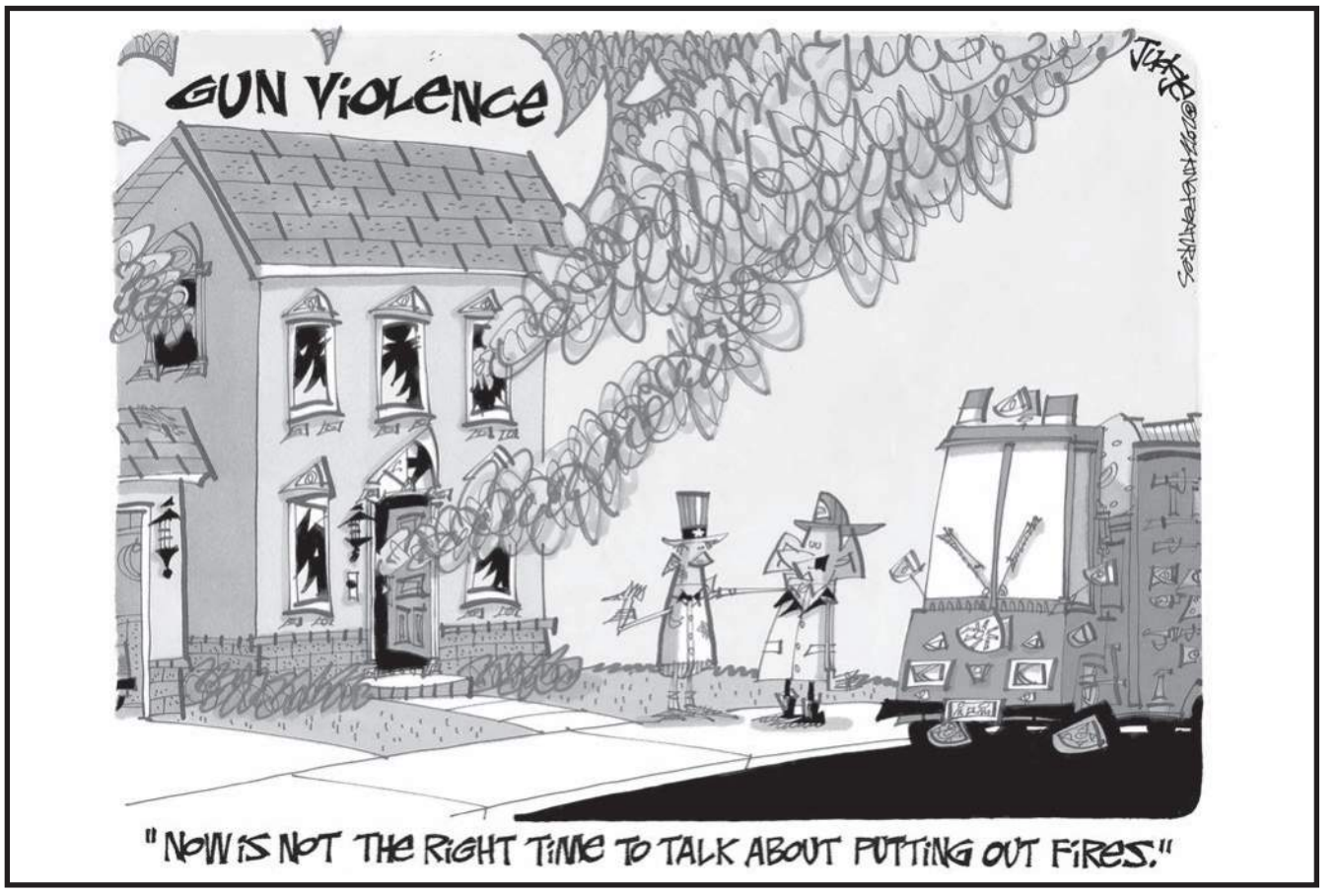


A Latino-on-Latino mass shooting. What now?

By GUSTAVO ARELLANO
Los Angeles Times

When I heard that a gunman had killed multiple schoolchildren in a predominantly Latino town in Texas, I immediately thought: white supremacist.

How could I not?

Just this month, a white man allegedly murdered 10 Black people in Buffalo, New York, while railing against Latino "replacers" in an online manifesto.

In 2019, another white man radicalized by neo-Nazi literature drove hundreds of miles to a Walmart in El Paso with the explicit mission to kill Latinos, prosecutors say. Twenty-three people died in that massacre, and multiple essays and columns tied the tragedy not just to our current era of racism and violence but to the Lone Star State's long, shameful history of lynching Latinos.

We live in an America where millions view us as the enemy simply for being Latinos. So I girded myself to deal with yet another murderous cretin purposefully inflicting chaos on my community.

When I found out that the person who killed 19 fourth-graders and two teachers in Uvalde, Texas, on Tuesday was named Salvador Rolando Ramos, my stomach dropped.

The mass shooting is already among the 10 worst in U.S. history. In four, most of the victims were Latino: the 1984 San Ysidro massacre in a McDonald's, the 2017 Orlando Pulse nightclub massacre, the El Paso massacre three years ago and now Uvalde, a town where nearly three-quarters of residents are Latino and the school district is more than 90% Latino.

Yet a Latino had never been the killer in any those or any of the other 10 worst mass shootings—until Ramos.

We still don't know his ultimate motivation. No statement has emerged, and his now-deleted social media accounts left few clues other than cryptic messages and recent photos of rifles he had purchased for his 18th birthday.

Former friends and classmates told the news media that Ramos was constantly bullied for his clothes and speech impediments, that he frequently clashed with his mom and grandmother—and that his emotional condition had deteriorated over the years.

But the sun hadn't even set on the bloodshed in Uvalde, and online speculation had already tried to tie Ramos' actions to who he was.

Some saw his Hispanic name and invoked illegal immigration despite law enforcement officials quickly stating that Ramos was born in North Dakota. After reading news accounts that Ramos wore eyeliner and endured homophobic slurs, others claimed that his supposed sexual identity pushed him to kill kids.

Communities of color have always have to deal with this essentialism when one of our own commits a massacre.

Asian Americans had to deal with ridiculous punditry in 2007 when photos emerged of the Korean-born student at Virginia Tech who killed 34 people posing in ways that referred to a violent Asian film.

Muslims always have to remind people that Islam is not a religion of terrorism just because someone invokes Allah while launching an attack on U.S. soil.

So when a minority kills on such a horrific scale as Uvalde, it's easy and understandable to call for colorblindness.

But when it's one of your own killing their own kind, then what?

We can't pretend that the sickness of mass shootings is a whites-only phenomenon fueled mostly by racial hatred. Minorities are supposed to be "better" than that, we tell ourselves. We're supposed to protect our own from horrors like Uvalde—and yet we can't.

In raining destruction on the most innocent of innocents in a small-town school, Ramos showed that minorities can be poisoned by that most American of diseases—the urge to arm yourself to the teeth and kill your fellow human beings on an industrial scale. It is, by now, a most American quality. One that makes us virtually singular on the global stage. A country of mass killings, no war necessary, hyper-charged—nay, guaranteed—by our dangerously simple access to guns.

I've seen hundreds of social media posts by Latinos who say that the young victims in Uvalde reminded them of their nieces, nephews and children. I feel that too.

When I see photos of Ramos, I also see Latinos I know.

When I heard that Ramos suffered merciless ridicule from his peers, I remembered when I was bullied at a predominantly Latino high school, where being even slightly different was a scarlet letter.

When I learned that Ramos lashed out at others with verbal outbursts, I flashed back to how fellow students who suffered personal problems and needed help did the same—and how no adult seemed to notice.

When I read that Ramos legally bought guns for his 18th birthday with nearly as much ease as buying a Coke, I thought about the gun cult that captivates too many Latino males.

None of what shaped Ramos is inherent in the Latino condition. Rather, it's as much a part of our America as anyone else's.

The tragedy in Uvalde disproves what white supremacists say about Latinos and other minorities. We're not unassimilable; we all become part of the United States.

What Ramos did—stemming from a pathology found almost nowhere else on Earth—is as American as apple pie.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

America's gun violence problem won't be solved until firearm owners finally understand it must be

By GEORGE SKELTON
Los Angeles Times

Political columnist George Skelton has covered government and politics for nearly 60 years and for The Los Angeles Times *since 1974.*

SACRAMENTO, Calif.—I've owned guns since age 13 and for many years was an avid hunter. I get the attraction and why they're enjoyed. But there's something I've never gotten.

I've never gotten why they're worshiped like pagan idols by so many.

Guns are so revered that many gun owners are obsessed with the fear that their weapons will be seized by the federal government, and they'll be left alone in the world. In their minds, the feds stay awake at night plotting the mass confiscation of—what's it up to now?—400 million firearms, far more than the U.S. population.

I do get this much: The National Rifle Association and other gun lobbies for decades have profited by spreading this propaganda and fomenting fear among gullible gun owners, who then send in dues and donate.

After all, the first thing Hitler did was seize all civilian guns in Nazi Germany, the fearmongers preach. And if we let down our guard, some authoritarian could grab our treasured firearms. Maybe someone from the White House.

That's nonsense, of course, but it's modern American gun gospel.

Back when I was a "junior member" of the NRA, its overriding emphasis was on gun safety. It seemed we were a lot safer in those days.

At the other end of the spectrum, there are people who have never held a gun, let alone shot one, who'd like to dump every civilian firearm in the ocean. That whips up gun owners' paranoia.

What we desperately need is something that seems beyond reach. And that's for the two sides to agree there's an intolerable problem. Then they need to negotiate and decide what to do about it.

It's called compromise, an American concept even older than the awkwardly written 2nd Amendment.

A Laguna Beach blogger emailed me Wednesday with an outstanding idea: President Biden should convene a gun summit at Camp David.

Invite gun lobbies, gun control groups and "the parents of children gunned down at school," wrote Denny Freidenrich, a retired public relations executive. "Make them bunk up and eat together for however long it takes to find common ground."

But in today's antagonistic climate, they might not last 15 minutes.

There are too many guns, period. There are especially too many military-style guns, the so-called assault weapons—semiautomatic rifles or handguns with high-capacity magazines. They have no place in a civilized society.

But most of us have been saying that for decades. And yet a kid who just turned 18 could buy two at a Texas store and shoot up a school, killing at least 19 students and two adults Tuesday.

It was the second horrific mass shooting in less than two weeks. On May 14, a racist gunman with an assault-style rifle killed 10 people at a grocery store in Buffalo, N.Y.

"Once again we learn that a tool designed to kill lots of people in a hurry is used to kill lots of people in a hurry," notes Garen Wintemute, director of the California Firearm Violence Research Center at UC Davis.

"Nobody needs to act surprised. The tool was used for the purpose it was designed."

U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., has proposed legislation to raise from 18 to 21 the minimum age for buying assault weapons and high-capacity magazines. Wintemute doesn't think that's an answer. They should be banned for everyone, he says.

Feinstein wholeheartedly agrees and her landmark 1994 legislation did outlaw assault weapons nationally. But it expired 10 years later, and Congress refused to renew the ban.

"In the 10 years that the assault weapons ban was in place, gun massacres dropped 37%," Feinstein says. "After the ban lapsed in 2004, gun massacres rose by 183%. There is simply no reason that average citizens need weapons of war."

California banned assault weapons after a Stockton mass school shooting in 1989. Republican Gov. George Deukmejian enthusiastically pushed the legislation.

Since then, we've enacted the toughest gun control laws in the nation. And there are a bunch more bills pending in the Legislature that Democratic leaders and Gov. Gavin Newsom vowed on Wednesday to get enacted by the end of June.

Our problem is that guns illegal here still get smuggled into the state. What's needed is national legislation so firearms aren't brought into California from Nevada, into Chicago from Indiana or into Washington, D.C., from Virginia.

There are no universal, tight background checks to prevent guns from being purchased by criminals and crackpots.

And there isn't enough money spent by politicians who advocate gun control—like Newsom—to enforce the laws we do have and seize weapons from people who possess them illegally.

One thing that could have prevented the Texas massacre is a California "red flag" program that allows families, teachers and co-workers to report suspicious gun owners. Then a judge can order their weapons confiscated.

The Texas killer apparently disclosed his plan on Facebook.

"We don't have to wait for elected officials to take action," Wintemute says. "If you see something, say something."

Look, politicians have been railing about the proliferation of gun violence for a very long time. And gun murders have been escalating to the nation's embarrassment.

The problem won't be solved until firearms owners finally understand that it must be solved and compromise with gun control advocates—then give the politicians permission to act.

Why America doesn't know how to stop school shootings

By JULIANNA GOLDMAN
Bloomberg Opinion

Julianna Goldman is a Bloomberg Opinion *columnist who was formerly a Washington-based correspondent for CBS News and White House correspondent for* Bloomberg News *and* Bloomberg Television.

As of right now, in the entire country, there is just a single federally funded study on preventing gun violence in America's schools. It started in September.

And in the days since 19 children and two teachers were gunned down in their classroom at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas, members of the research team of about a dozen scientists and educators have been furiously emailing back and forth, asking how they can speed up the work on their three-year grant.

"We really don't know what works and what doesn't to keep schools safe from events like Tuesday," said Charles Branas, a professor of epidemiology at Columbia University and one of the lead investigators in the study. School districts across the country are formulating policies in a vacuum without "any evidence to hang their hat on."

Wait, what? Columbine. Sandy Hook. Parkland. The federal government wasn't funding this kind of research before? The answer is no—not for more than 20 years.

In 1996, Congress passed the so-called "Dickey Amendment," named after the late Representative Jay Dickey, who retired from Congress with an A-plus rating from the National Rifle Association. The measure effectively cut off funding for research on gun violence at the Centers for Disease Control.

Dickey had a change of heart following the 2012 massacre in a Colorado movie theater that killed 12 people. He partnered with a former nemesis, Mark Rosenberg, then director of the CDC's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, to argue that gun violence should be treated like a public health crisis. In a 2012 op-ed article in the Washington Post, they implored Congress to restore the funding.

"We were on opposite sides of the heated battle 16 years ago, but we are in strong agreement now that scientific research should be conducted into preventing firearm injuries," they wrote. "Ways to prevent firearm deaths can be found without encroaching on the rights of legitimate gun owners."

It wasn't for another six years that a Republican president, Donald Trump, signed a spending bill that restored CDC research for gun violence and prevention. In 2020 and 2021, Congress allocated $25 million over three years for such research, split between the CDC and the National Institutes of Health. But that's a pittance, Rosenberg says, compared to the $200 million annual spending over 50 years on research into preventing motor vehicle injuries. That spending has helped save 600,000 lives—about the same number of lives, he notes, lost to gun violence between 2000 and 2020.

Branas and his team are studying about 650 public schools across the country in urban and non-urban centers. The team is looking at schools that have experienced gun violence and those that haven't, examining the effectiveness of about two dozen safety tactics and policies.

The study is in such early stages that there isn't even preliminary data. "It's really unclear if arming teachers is a solution. Teachers already have a major job in a classroom," he told me. "We haven't even begun to scratch the surface of the implications of running kids through lockdown drills."

The CDC and NIH have awarded some 28 grants to study a range of gun violence issues, including the best ways to intervene and prevent threats of gun violence on social media; how to figure out who is most at risk of being victims of gun violence and who is most at risk of perpetrating violent gun acts; and the development of a website to teach children hunting, shooting and firearms safety.

"Science is not the set of perfect answers," Rosenberg told me. "It's a tool for reaching the answers."

Branas hopes his team's findings can be used by school districts around the country to inform prescriptive measures and prevent other children from being senselessly gunned down.

I look forward to their findings. But when it comes to gun violence—as with vaccines and climate change—I worry whether data and scientific arguments are enough. The aftermath of a mass shooting is by now sadly familiar. There's a template, with rolling coverage leading up to a visit from the president, an impassioned plea for stricter gun laws and failed votes in Congress.

The vast majority of the country supports universal background checks, most people want to ban gun purchases by those with mental illness, and they don't want people carrying concealed weapons without permits. And yet there is a feeling of hopelessness that American society is incapable of doing anything about these massacres. Maybe we hugged our children a little tighter and a little longer this morning before we sent them off to school. What else can we do?

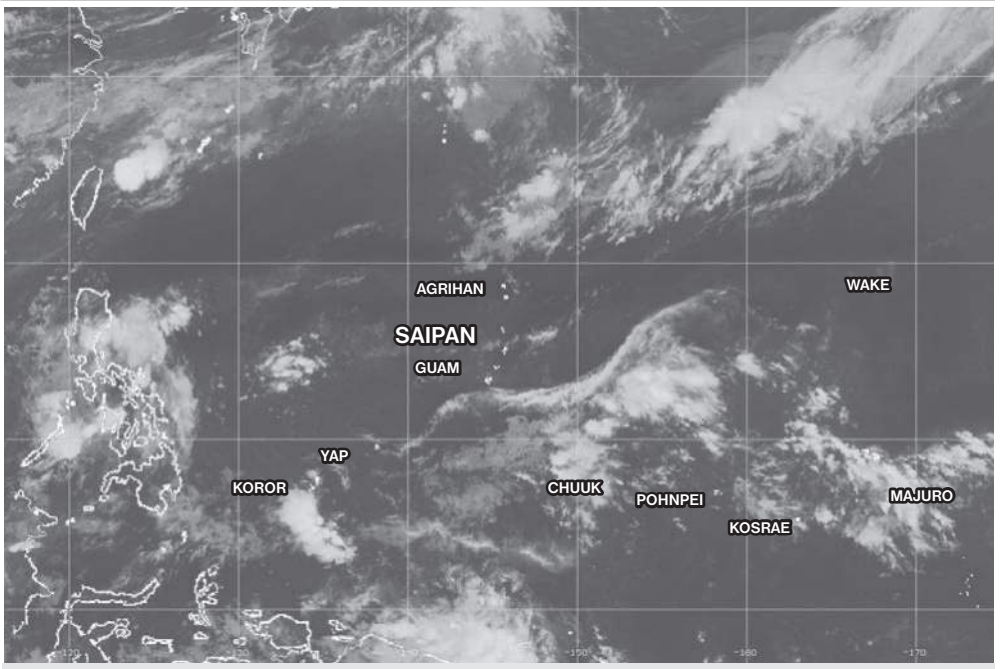
"It makes us doubly motivated that we have to find something, that we have to contribute to a solution here," Branas told me. "And that drives an inkling of optimism for us."

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly sunny, with Scattered showers. East wind 5 to 7 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30%.	Sunny, with Isolated showers. East wind 7 to 9 mph.	Partly sunny, with Scattered showers. Chance of precipitation is 30%..	Partly sunny, with a chance of showers.	Partly sunny, with a chance of showers.
88° 78°	88° 78°	88° 78°	87° 78°	87° 78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:21 AM, TUESDAY, MAY 31, 2022

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Gentle east winds will prevail in the Marianas the next several days. Ritidian buoy indicates seas are around 4 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	31 / 26 °F
Palau	Partly Cloudy	29 / 25 °F
Yap	Partly Cloudy	30 / 26 °F
Chuuk	PM Thunderstorms	29 / 26 °F
Pohnpei	Showers	28 / 24 °F
Kosrae	Showers	28 / 25 °F
Majuro	Thunderstorms	29 / 26 °F

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	05:45 AM	18:43 PM
Tuesday	05:45 AM	18:44 PM
Wednesday	05:45 AM	18:44 PM
Thursday	05:45 AM	18:44 PM
Friday	05:45 AM	18:45 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	06:49	20:18 PM	-
Tuesday	07:39	21:09 PM	-
Wednesday	08:30	21:57 PM	-
Thursday	09:22	22:42 PM	-
Friday	10:14	23:24 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	AM Showers	19 / 14 °F
Beijing	Sunny	35 / 17 °F
Hong Kong	AM Thunderstorms	30 / 27 °F
Honolulu	Partly Cloud	29 / 23 °F
London	Partly Cloud	18 / 8 °F
Los Angeles	Sunny	28 / 15 °F
Manila	Thunderstorms	32 / 26 °F
Melbourne	Rain	12 / 5 °F
Miami	Scattered Thunderstorms	28 / 24 °F
New York	Mostly Cloudy	22 / 18 °F
Osaka	Cloudy	27 / 18 °F
Paris	Partly Cloud	23 / 11 °F
Busan	AM Clouds/PM Sun	25 / 17 °F
Rome	Partly Cloudy	32 / 18 °F
Salem	Mostly Sunny	32 / 20 °F
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	19 / 11 °F
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	29 / 15 °F
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	27 / 19 °F
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	35 / 23 °F

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
03:08 AM	Low Tide	1.42
07:29 AM	High Tide	1.86
3:02 PM	Low Tide	-0.09
10:26 PM	High Tide	1.93

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

■ Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.

■ Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.

■ Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.

■ Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.

■ Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.

■ Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html

■ Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

■ Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.

■ Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

■ Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:

• Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.

• Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

• Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

• Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 1, 2022

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	6:35AM	7:15AM	1, 3, 6
UA117	9:50AM	10:35AM	2, 4, 5, 7

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	6:00AM	8:00AM	1, 3, 5, 6, 7
UA193	7:05PM	10:55PM	5 via Palau
UA183	7:10PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	6:35AM	9:10PM	1, 3, 6 via Guam
UA117/193	6:35AM	10:55PM	5 via Guam, Palau
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	2, 4, 5, 7 via Guam

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW9308	3:30PM	7:20PM	4, 7
7C3405	3:30PM	7:25PM	6
RS112	3:45PM	7:30PM	3, 6
7C3405	3:50PM	7:45PM	3
OZ624	4:00PM	7:40PM	3, 6

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

BX622	3:10PM	6:30PM	3, 7

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA116	5:00AM	5:45AM	1, 3, 6
UA116	8:00AM	8:45AM	5, 7
UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	2, 4

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

PR110	10:35PM	4:35AM+1	2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA184	10:25PM	4:20AM+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:05AM+1	5 via Palau
UA184	11:50PM	5:40AM+1	5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/116	10:25PM	5:45AM+1	2, 5, 7 via Guam
UA184/116	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3 via Guam
UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	4, 6 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	8:30AM	2:10PM	6
RS111	8:45AM	2:05PM	3, 6
7C3406	8:50AM	2:30PM	3
TW9307	9:00AM	2:30PM	4, 7
OZ623	9:00AM	2:30PM	3, 6

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

BX621	8:00AM	1:10PM	3, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	8:30	9:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

LIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

Business

EU leaders agree to ban 90% of Russian oil by year-end

BRUSSELS (AP)—European Union leaders agreed Monday to embargo most Russian oil imports into the bloc by year-end as part of new sanctions on Moscow worked out at a summit focused on helping Ukraine with a long-delayed package of new financial support.

The embargo covers Russian oil brought in by sea, allowing a temporary exemption for imports delivered by pipeline, a move that was crucial to bring landlocked Hungary on board a decision that required consensus.

EU Council President Charles Michel said the agreement covers more than two-thirds of oil imports from Russia. Ursula Von der Leyen, the head of the EU's executive branch, said the punitive move will "effectively cut around 90% of oil imports from Russia to the EU by the end of the year."

AP

Ukrainian demonstrators demand an embargo on Russian oil during a protest in front of EU institutions prior to an extraordinary meeting of EU leaders to discuss Ukraine, energy and food security at the Europa building in Brussels, Monday, May 30, 2022.

Michel said leaders also agreed to provide Ukraine with a 9 billion-euro ($9.7 billion) tranche of assistance to support the war-torn country's economy. It was unclear whether the money would come in grants or loans.

Mikhail Ulyanov, Russia's permanent representative to international organizations in Vienna, responded to the EU's decision on Twitter, saying: "As she rightly said yesterday, Russia will find other importers."

The new package of sanctions will also include an asset freeze and travel ban on individuals, while Russia's biggest bank, Sberbank, will be excluded from SWIFT, the major global system for financial transfers from which the EU previously banned several smaller Russian banks. Three big Russian state-owned broadcasters will be prevented from distributing their content in the EU.

"We want to stop Russia's war machine," Michel said, lauding what he called a "remarkable achievement."

"More than ever it's important to show that we are able to be strong, that we are able to be firm, that we are able to be tough," he added.

Michel said the new sanctions, which needed the support of all 27 member countries, will be legally endorsed by Wednesday.

The EU had already imposed five previous rounds of sanctions on Russia over its war. It has targeted more than 1,000 people individually, including Russian President Vladimir Putin and top government officials as well as pro-Kremlin oligarchs, banks, the coal sector and more.

But the sixth package of measures announced May 4 had been held up by concerns over oil supplies.

Biden to meet Fed chair as inflation bites pocketbooks

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Joe Biden is set to meet with Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell as soaring inflation takes a bite out of Americans' pocketbooks.

The meeting Tuesday will be the first since Biden renominated Powell to lead the central bank and comes weeks after his confirmation for a second term by the Senate.

The White House said the pair would discuss the state of the U.S. and global economy and especially inflation, described as Biden's "top economic priority." The goal, the White House said, is a "transition from an historic economic recovery to stable, steady growth that works for working families."

Biden

Inflation in the U.S. hit a 40-year high earlier this year, amid supply chain constraints caused by the global economy's recovery from the pandemic and Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

But the economy saw a welcome bit of data Friday, as the Commerce Department said inflation rose 6.3% in April from a year earlier, the first slowdown since November 2020 and a sign that high prices may finally be moderating, at least for now.

The inflation figure was below the four-decade high of 6.6% set in March. While high inflation is still causing hardships for millions of households, any slowing of price increases, if sustained, would provide some modest relief.

Powell has pledged to keep ratcheting up the Fed's key short-term interest rate to cool the economy until inflation is "coming down in a clear and convincing way." Those rate hikes have spurred fears that the Fed, in its drive to slow borrowing and spending, may push the economy into a recession. That concern has caused sharp drops in stock prices in the past two months, though markets rallied last week.

Powell has signaled that the Fed will likely raise its benchmark rate by a half-point in both June and July—twice the size of the usual rate increase.

US, Canadian regulators tie hepatitis cases to strawberries

By DEE-ANN DURBIN
AP BUSINESS WRITER

U.S. and Canadian regulators are investigating a hepatitis outbreak that may be linked to fresh organic strawberries.

In a joint weekend statement, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the Public Health Agency of Canada said illnesses in Minnesota, California and Canada occurred after people consumed Fresh-Kampo and H-E-B brand strawberries.

The agencies said the strawberries were purchased between March 5 and April 25. They were sold at various U.S. retailers, including Aldi, Kroger, Safeway, Walmart and Trader Joe's. In Canada, the affected strawberries were sold between March 5-9 at Co-op stores in Alberta and Saskatchewan.

The potentially affected strawberries are past their shelf life, but health officials say consumers who purchased them and froze them to eat later should throw them away.

AP

Fresh-picked strawberries are shown. U.S. and Canadian regulators are investigating a hepatitis outbreak that may be linked to fresh organic strawberries.

There have been 17 illnesses and 12 hospitalizations reported in the U.S., the FDA said. Ten cases and four hospitalizations have been reported in Canada.

Mexico-based FreshKampo, which grew the strawberries, said in a statement Sunday that it is working with regulators to determine how the problem occurred. Fresh-Kampo said the label on the containers of potentially affected strawberries would have said "Product of Mexico" or "Distributed by Meridien Foods."

In a statement on its website, Texas grocer H-E-B said it has not received or sold organic strawberries from the supplier in question since April 16. H-E-B said anyone who still has the strawberries should throw them away or return them to the store where they were purchased.

Hepatitis A is a virus that can cause liver disease and, in rare cases, liver failure and death. Illness usually occurs within 15 to 50 days after eating or drinking contaminated food or water. Symptoms include fatigue, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain and jaundice.

Consumers who ate the potentially affected berries in the last two weeks and have not been vaccinated against hepatitis A should immediately consult with a physician, the FDA said.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

German inflation rate hits highest level since early 1970s

BERLIN (AP)—Germany's annual inflation rate accelerated to 7.9% in May, its highest level in nearly half a century, according to an official estimate Monday. The Federal Statistical Office said year-on-year inflation jumped from 7.4% in April, with energy prices 38.3% higher than in May last year and food prices up 11.1%. Germany has Europe's biggest economy. It is the highest inflation rate since the winter of 1973-1974, when an oil crisis also fueled higher prices. Inflation in Germany stood at an already high 5.1% in February and leapt above the 7% mark in March following Russia's invasion of Ukraine. In month-on-month terms, the statistics office said prices were up 0.9% in May. In a separate report on Monday, the office said that people's earnings in Germany were down 1.8% in real terms in this year's first quarter compared with a year earlier as a result of inflation, which more than offset a nominal increase of 4%.

Low-cost carrier Norwegian Air buys 50 Boeing 737 aircraft

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP)—Budget carrier Norwegian Air Shuttle on Monday said it had reached an agreement with Boeing to buy 50 737 MAX 8 aircraft, saying the planes are due to be delivered between 2025 and 2028, at a schedule closely corresponding to current aircraft lease expirations. The company said it intends to finance the outstanding balance of pre-delivery payments through positive cash flow from operating activities, and that "a significant share of the aircraft" will be owned by Norwegian, "ensuring an optimized and balanced aircraft financing structure." Board chairman Svein Harald Øygard called it "a landmark deal."

Nation

Uvalde: Visitations, funerals and burials, one after another

By ADRIANA GOMEZ LICON
ASSOCIATED PRESS

UVALDE, Texas (AP)—It should have been the first day of a joyous week for Robb Elementary School students—the start of summer break. Instead on Monday, the first two of 19 children slain inside a classroom were being remembered at funeral visitations.

The gathering for 10-year-old Amerie Jo Garza was at Hillcrest Memorial Funeral Home in Uvalde, Texas, directly across from the grade school where the children, along with two teachers, were shot to death on Tuesday before the gunman himself was killed. Visitation for another 10-year-old, Maite Rodriguez, was at the town's other funeral home.

Over the next two-and-a-half traumatic weeks, people in the southwestern Texas town will say goodbye to the children and their teachers, one heart-wrenching visitation, funeral and burial after another. As family and friends unleash their grief, investigators will push for answers about how police responded to the shooting, and lawmakers have said they'll consider what can be done to stem the gun violence permeating the nation.

This week alone, funerals are planned for 11 children and teacher Irma Garcia.

Salvatore Di Grazia, a teacher visiting from Rio Grande Valley, Texas, prays at a memorial at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas Monday, May 30, 2022, for the victims killed in last week's school shooting. AP

On Monday, some mourners at Amerie's visitation wore lilac or lavender shades of purple—Amerie's favorites—at the request of her father, Angel Garza. Many carried in flowers, including purple ones.

The little girl who loved to draw had just received a cellphone for her 10th birthday. One of her friends told Angel Garza that Amerie tried to use the phone to call police during the assault on her fourth-grade classroom.

Among the mourners at Amerie's visitation were some of Maite's relatives. Like many people, they were attending both.

Maite's family wore green tie-dye shirts with an illustration showing Maite with angel wings. Before going into the funeral home, they stopped at the ditch to see the metal gate gunman Salvador Ramos crashed a pickup truck into before crossing a field and entering the school.

"How did he walk for so long?" asked Juana Magaña, Maite's aunt.

Hillcrest Memorial itself and the shooting will be forever linked. After Ramos wrecked the truck, two men at the funeral home heard the crash and ran toward the accident scene. Ramos shot at them. He missed and both men made it to safety.

Eliahna "Ellie" Garcia's funeral will be June 6—the day after she was supposed to turn 10. Her family had been preparing a big birthday bash at her grandmother's house this coming weekend. She had been hoping to receive gifts related to the Disney movie "Encanto."

"She loved that movie and talked a lot about it," said her aunt, Siria Arizmendi.

Ellie was quiet even around family but loved doing videos and had been already practicing with her older sister a choreography for her quinceañera party—the celebration of a girl's 15th birthday—even though it was still five years away, Arizmendi said.

Ellie's older sister is doing OK, Arizmendi said, understanding their family and others face a long road to recovery.

"It is just sad for all the children," she said.

ACROSS THE NATION

$2M relic stolen, angel statue beheaded at Brooklyn church

NEW YORK (AP)—Police say someone busted into the altar at a New York City church, stole a $2 million gold relic and removed the head from a statue of an angel at some point late last week. The incident happened between 6:30 p.m. Thursday and 4 p.m. Saturday at St. Augustine's Roman Catholic Church, known as the "Notre Dame" of Brooklyn's Park Slope neighborhood. The church was closed for construction at the time. Camera recordings from the church's security system were also stolen, the church's pastor said. The Diocese of Brooklyn called it "a brazen crime of disrespect and hate."

DUI arrest of Pelosi's husband came after California crash

NAPA, Calif. (AP)—The weekend arrest of Paul Pelosi, the husband of U.S. Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, on suspicion of driving under the influence came after the Porsche he was driving was hit by another vehicle in Northern California's wine country, authorities said. Paul Pelosi, 82, was taken into custody shortly before midnight Saturday in Napa County, according to a sheriff's office online booking report. He was driving a 2021 Porsche into an intersection near the town of Yountville and was hit by a 2014 Jeep, the California Highway Patrol said in a statement late Sunday. No injuries were reported, and the 48-year-old driver of the Jeep was not arrested.

Deputies arrest Florida man who threatened a school shooting

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—Detectives have arrested an 18-year-old Florida man after receiving a tip that he threatened a mass shooting at a school in a social media post. Corey Anderson's post showed him with a handgun, a rifle and a tactical-style vest along with a caption that said, "Hey Siri, directions to the nearest school," Hillsborough County Sheriff Chad Chronister said in a news release. Anderson was arrested at his home near Tampa on Sunday, and charged with a written or electronic threat to conduct a mass shooting or act of terrorism. "This type of threat is unacceptable. This man intentionally instilled fear into our community as a sick joke, but be warned, this is no laughing matter," Hillsborough County Sheriff Chad Chronister said in a statement. The sheriff said his agency will "do everything within our power" to track down anyone who makes school threats.

Police: 6 wounded in Tennessee shooting were children

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. (AP)—Six people wounded in weekend gunfire in a downtown Chattanooga, Tennessee, business district were all children, police said Monday. Five of the victims were 15 and one was 13, Chattanooga Police said in a statement. Officers were patrolling the area Saturday night when they heard gunfire and responded to find multiple people shooting weapons and numerous people fleeing the area. Some officers provided first aid while others began securing the scene, the statement said. The shooting involved two groups of people that appeared to be advancing toward each other at the beginning of an altercation when two individuals in one group pull guns and fired at the other group, police said. Authorities believe one or more teens were targeted, but that some victims were hit unintentionally.

Man who won $10(m) lottery prize sentenced to life in prison

BOLIVIA, N.C. (AP)—A North Carolina man who won a $10 million lottery prize in 2017 has been sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole in the 2020 fatal shooting of his girlfriend. The News & Observer reports that Michael Todd Hill, 54, of Leland, was convicted of first-degree murder and sentenced Friday in the killing of 23-year-old Keonna Graham of Navassa. Graham was reported missing on July 20, 2020. She was later found dead in a hotel with a gunshot wound to the back of the head. In a news release from the 15th Prosecutorial District of North Carolina, prosecutors said surveillance footage from the hotel showed Hill was the only person in the room with Graham. They said Hill later confessed to shooting Graham after she had been texting with other men while at the hotel. Hill won $10 million from a scratch-off ticket in August 2017, WECT-TV reported.

Boat capsizes on Colorado lake; 1 dead, 1 missing, 11 hurt

PUEBLO, Colo. (AP)—A boat capsized on a Colorado lake Sunday night, leaving one woman dead, 11 people hospitalized and one man missing. Eight adults and five children were on the large, flat boat near a picnic area at Lake Pueblo State Park over the Memorial Day holiday weekend when high winds apparently overturned the boat, authorities told KRDO-TV. The woman died at the scene and a child was flown to a hospital by medical helicopter. The other survivors were treated for hypothermia at hospitals, Colorado Parks and Wildlife said in a statement. Search and rescue crews were looking for the missing man using sonar but warned that their effort could be difficult because the water is up to 90 feet (27 meters) deep and cold at this time of year. Authorities did not immediately make public the victims' identities.

2 killed, 20 injured after car barrels into Nebraska crowd

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP)—Two people were killed and 20 others were injured after a crash that sent two cars careening into a crowd of bystanders while an annual Memorial Day weekend "cruise" night was wrapping up in Nebraska's capital, police said Monday. Two women, ages 20 and 22, had been inside one of the cars and died in the Sunday night crash on O Street in Lincoln. Of the injured bystanders, one person was listed in critical condition and the others were treated at hospitals for injuries not believed to be life-threatening, police said. "We do not believe nor is there any evidence this was an intentional act," Lincoln police said in a statement. Lincoln Police Chief Teresa Ewins said in a news conference Monday afternoon that neither of the vehicles involved in the crash was participating in the "Americruise" event, which has been taking place in the city since the early 1990s. It was a collision that could have happened at any time, she said.

Residents evacuate as fire rages at Omaha chemical company

OMAHA, Neb. (AP)—Fire raged through a chemical company Monday night just southwest of downtown Omaha, forcing some nearby residents to evacuate and leaving thousands without power. Thick smoke billowed from the Nox-Crete facility, but no injuries had been reported, according to KETV. Battalion Chief Scott Fitzpatrick said the first call for help came shortly before 7 p.m. Fitzpatrick said firefighters first struggled to access the fire, then realized it was bigger than first thought and pulled back knowing there were chemicals and propane bottles on site.

Asia

21 bodies are recovered from Nepal plane wreck

KATHMANDU, Nepal (AP)—Rescuers searching a mountainside in Nepal on Monday recovered the bodies of 21 of the 22 people who were on board a plane that crashed a day earlier, officials said.

The search is continuing for the remaining person, Kathmandu airport spokesman Tek Nath Sitaula said.

Recovery efforts were delayed because some bodies were pinned under the plane's wreckage. Rescuers working with their bare hands had difficulty moving the metal debris.

Aerial photos of the crash site showed aircraft parts scattered on rocks and moss on the side of a mountain gorge.

The Tara Air turboprop Twin Otter lost contact with the airport tower on Sunday while flying on a scheduled 20-minute flight in an area of deep river gorges and mountaintops.

Relatives waited most of the day at the airport for news of their loved ones.

Four Indians and two Germans were on the plane, Tara Air said. The three crew members and other passengers were Nepali nationals, it said.

German news agency dpa reported that the two Germans were a man and a woman from the western state of Hesse.

"Unfortunately, we have to assume at this point that the two people are no longer alive," dpa quoted a spokesperson for the Hesse state interior ministry as saying. "On the part of the Hessian police, relatives have already been informed and care measures initiated."

Local news reports said the passengers included two Nepali families, one with four members and the other with seven.

The army said the plane crashed in Sanosware in Mustang district close to the mountain town of Jomsom, where it was heading after taking off from the resort town of Pokhara, 200 kilometers (125 miles) west of Kathmandu.

According to tracking data from flightradar24.com, the 43-year-old aircraft took off from Pokhara at 9:55 a.m. and transmitted its last signal at 10:07 a.m. at an altitude of 12,825 feet (3,900 meters).

Shanghai moves toward ending lockdown

BEIJING (AP)—Shanghai authorities say they will take some major steps Wednesday toward reopening China's largest city after a two-month COVID-19 lockdown that has throttled the national economy and largely bottled up millions of people in their homes.

Full bus and subway service will be restored as will basic rail connections with the rest of China, Vice Mayor Zong Ming said Tuesday at a daily news conference on the city's outbreak.

Schools will partially reopen on a voluntary basis for students and shopping malls, supermarkets, convenience stores and drug stores will continue to reopen gradually with no more than 75% of their total capacity. Cinemas and gyms will remain closed.

Officials, who set June 1 as the target date for reopening earlier in May, appear ready to accelerate what has been a gradual easing in recent days. A few malls and markets have reopened, and some residents have been given passes allowing them out for a few hours at a time. In at least some chat groups, cynicism about the slow pace and stop-and-go nature of opening up gave way Tuesday to excitement about the prospect of being able to move about freely in the city for the first time since the end of March.

Shanghai recorded 29 new cases on Monday, continuing a steady decline from more than 20,000 a day in April. Li Qiang, the top official from China's ruling Communist Party in Shanghai, at a meeting Monday was quoted as saying that the city had made major achievements in fighting the outbreak through continuous struggle.

The success came at a price. Authorities imposed a suffocating citywide lockdown under China's "zero-COVID" strategy that aims to snuff out any outbreak with mass testing and isolation at centralized facilities of anyone who is infected.

Schools will reopen for the final two years of high school and the third year of middle school, but students can decide whether to attend in person. Other grades and kindergarten remain closed.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Hong Kong's next leader receives official appointment letter

HONG KONG (AP)—Hong Kong's next leader, John Lee, received an official letter of appointment from Beijing on Monday, a month before he is to take over the leadership of the semi-autonomous city. Lee received his letter of appointment from Chinese Premier Li Keqiang, who congratulated him on his selection as Hong Kong's next chief executive. He also met with Chinese President Xi Jinping. Xi said Lee "loves the country and Hong Kong" and has "contributed in terms of protecting national security and protecting Hong Kong's prosperity and stability." "You have the affirmation and the trust of the central government," Xi said.

Indonesian fishermen rescue 10 more survivors of sunken boat

MAKASSAR, Indonesia (AP)—Ten more survivors of an Indonesian boat that sank three days earlier were rescued Monday by local fishermen, leaving 11 people still missing, an official said. The captain and other crew of the cargo vessel, which was carrying 42 people, were among those rescued Monday, said Djunaidi, head of the provincial search and rescue agency.

"They are safe and in good condition," said Djunaidi, who like many Indonesians uses only one name. The KM Ladang Pertiwi 02 sank in bad weather in the Makassar Strait on Friday afternoon. It had left Makassar on Thursday and was headed to Kalmas Island in South Sulawesi province. The cause of the sinking was still being investigated.

Japan complains over Seoul marine survey in disputed waters

TOKYO (AP)—Japan lodged a complaint Monday over a South Korean ship that was conducting a marine survey in waters near Japanese-claimed islands controlled by Seoul. Government spokesperson Hirokazu Matsuno said it was "totally unacceptable" that a South Korean research ship was spotted trailing what appeared to be a cable near the islands, which Japan calls Takeshima and South Korea calls Dokdo. Matsuno said Tokyo did not receive any prior request from Seoul for such research. "We strongly demand this stop immediately," he said.

World

Russians, Ukrainians fighting block by block in eastern city

AP

A girl sits on a swing outside destroyed buildings during attacks in Irpin outskirts Kyiv, Ukraine, Monday, May 30, 2022.

KRAMATORSK, Ukraine (AP)—Russian troops pushed deeper into a key eastern Ukrainian city Monday, fighting street by street with Kyiv's forces in a battle that has left Sievierodonetsk in ruins. In a bid to pressure Moscow to end the war, the European Union agreed to embargo most Russian oil imports by the end of the year.

As Moscow's advance on Sievierodonetsk increased in intensity, Russian forces also shelled parts of Ukraine's northeast, and a struggle continued for control of a southern region. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, meanwhile, said Russia has prevented the export of 22 million tons of Ukrainian grain, contributing to a growing global food crisis.

Military analysts described the fight for Sievierodonetsk as part of a race against time for the Kremlin. The city is important to Russian efforts to quickly complete the capture of the eastern industrial region of the Donbas before more Western arms arrive to bolster Ukraine's defense. Moscow-backed separatists already held territory in the region and have been fighting Ukrainian troops for eight years.

"The Kremlin has reckoned that it can't afford to waste time and should use the last chance to extend the separatist-controlled territory because the arrival of Western weapons in Ukraine could make it impossible," Ukrainian military analyst Oleh Zhdanov said.

In a potential setback for Ukraine, U.S. President Joe Biden appeared to dismiss reports that the U.S. was considering sending long-range rocket systems to the country.

But the European Union approved additional sanctions on Russia. As part of a long-delayed financial support package to help Ukraine, EU leaders agreed Monday to embargo most Russian oil imports into the 27-nation bloc by year-end. The agreement came after Zelenskyy asked the EU to target Russian oil exports so Moscow "feels the price for what it is doing against Ukraine."

The embargo covers Russian oil brought in by sea, allowing a temporary exemption for imports delivered by pipeline. EU Council President Charles Michel said the agreement covers more than two-thirds of oil imports from Russia. Ursula von der Leyen, the head of the EU's executive branch, said the move will "effectively cut around 90% of oil imports from Russia to the EU by the end of the year."

WORLD BRIEFS

5 missiles hit Iraqi base hosting US troops; no casualties

BAGHDAD (AP)—At least five missiles hit a sprawling Iraqi army base hosting U.S. troops in the country's western desert Monday, two Iraqi security officials said. The officials said the Grad missiles struck inside the Ain al-Asad base in Iraq's western Anbar province and caused minor damages but no casualties. The officials said the missiles hit only a few meters (yards) from where U.S. forces are stationed. The officals spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to brief media. The culprits were not immediately known, but the U.S. has previously accused Iran-backed Iraqi militia groups of targeting the American presence in Iraq, including the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad. The attacks were once a frequent occurence, but have lessened in recent months.

WHO: Monkeypox won't turn into pandemic, but many unknowns

LONDON (AP)—The World Health Organization's top monkeypox expert said she doesn't expect the hundreds of cases reported to date to turn into another pandemic, but acknowledged there are still many unknowns about the disease, including how exactly it's spreading and whether the suspension of mass smallpox immunization decades ago may somehow be speeding its transmission. In a public session on Monday, WHO's Dr. Rosamund Lewis said it was critical to emphasize that the vast majority of cases being seen in dozens of countries globally are in gay, bisexual or men who have sex with men, so that scientists can further study the issue. She urged those at risk to be careful. "It's very important to describe this because it appears to be an increase in a mode of transmission that may have been under-recognized in the past," said Lewis.

Good Housekeeping

What landscaping can you get for $50, $500 or $5,000?

By STACI GIORDULLO
ANGIE'S LIST

How much does landscaping cost? Top-rated companies explain how far your dollar stretches when it comes to enhancing your home's curb appeal.

As you survey your property, you might wonder what type of landscaping additions or upgrades fit your budget. Well, wonder no more.

Angie's List asked landscapers about the most popular projects they offer in various price ranges, so all you have to do is decide which one suits you best.

Keep in mind, though, always to verify a landscaping company's insurance and applicable licensing information. What they're selling may sound like a bargain, but you might end up with a raw deal if they're not following the rules.

Top-rated companies explain how far your dollar stretches when it comes to enhancing your home's curb appeal.

FREEPIK

What can I get for $50?

Admittedly, at this price range you might be looking at more DIY-type projects, such as buying and spreading your own bags of mulch. But there are a few tasks you can hire a pro to tackle.

Dan Eyre, owner of Dan's Landscape and Tree Service in Cypress, Calif., says $50 will cover the cost of programming a sprinkler's timer and an operational once-over.

Other options include a flat of seasonal spring flowers, such as begonias, planted and mulched by a landscaper.

Or one application of fly repellent for an average-sized lawn, according to Kronda Thimesch, co-owner of Green Meadows Landscaping in Lewisville, Tex.

"One application lasts four weeks, and it deters flies in the yard," Thimesch says.

What can I get for $500?

Scott McIntyre, owner of Landscape Solutions in Los Gatos, Calif.-, says he typically charges a minimum of $500 for irrigation troubleshooting, repair services or other miscellaneous landscaping work that takes around eight man hours.

"Our slogan is 'great landscaping designed to budget,' so we're familiar with the importance of good design and getting the most for your money," he says.

Thimesch says some of the services she offers in this price range include:

—Nine applications of a fertilization and weed control program.

—Lawn mowed, trimmed and edged weekly for four months, for the average half-acre lot.

—A 3-D design of your landscape plan. "It takes the guesswork out of what the trees and plants will look like in your yard," she says.

What can I get for $5,000?

Mick Johnson, owner of Johnson Creek in St. Paul, Minn., says homeowners with this kind of budget can expect a wide variety of finished projects, including patios and retaining walls.

The type of patio or wall, materials and size all play into the final cost.

Another option is revamping a home's front foundation landscape, which involves removing most—if not all— of the debris and plants already in the beds. Then those beds are reshaped and given a new planting palette to complement the home, increasing its overall curb appeal.

"Each project we work on is as unique as the homeowner and their house," Johnson says. "So it's difficult to place a hard-and-fast cost on a custom landscape."

Eyre says this budget will get a homeowner a complete irrigation system in both the front and back yards, including a new timer, valves, heads and also the installation of 1,000 square feet of sod.

Other options our landscaping experts mentioned include:

- Water features
- Privacy and border plantings
- Perennial gardens
- Landscape lighting
- Arbors and trellis work

Doug Engelhart, owner of Your Personal Gardener in Ostrander, Ohio, says a customer spending $50 should expect the same service as one spending $500 or $5,000.

"You should get the same commitment to showing up on time, the same quality of work whether done in one hour or a hundred, and the same level of honesty on the invoice or work order," he says. "Customers should insist on, no matter the price range, details on their invoices, including materials and quantities."

How much does it cost to pave a driveway?

By JAMES FIGY
ANGIE'S LIST

Make a great first impression on visitors to your home with an aesthetically pleasing driveway.

The materials you select to pave your driveway affect the job's price. The materials used also affect your home's curb appeal and resale value.

Check out how these popular driveway options differ to ensure you're making the best choice.

Asphalt

Contractors consider asphalt one of the cheapest options. Paving an asphalt driveway ranges from $2,300 to $10,300, according to costhelper.com, and Angie's List members nationally reported an average price of $5,308 to pave an asphalt driveway.

"Asphalt is certainly less expensive than concrete, but it is also smoother because it does not have joints or gaps," says Scot Leggett, owner of Leggett Asphalt in Tualatin, Ore. "Asphalt is stronger than an equal depth of concrete, and much stronger than concrete that is not fortified with rebar or wire mesh."

If homeowners reseal the asphalt driveway every three years, it will last about 20 years, according to the National Asphalt Pavement Association.

Asphalt should be 3 inches thick when used over gravel for new driveways, and 2 inches thick when repaving, Leggett says. Some contractors disagree, but he argues thicker is better.

"Keep in mind that we do not make additional profit for laying the asphalt deeper," he says. "You pay only for the additional raw material, making a thicker paving job a great value."

Concrete

If properly maintained, a concrete driveway can last for about 30 years and continue to cure and harden, says Prisciliano Anaya, president of Anaya Concrete in Denver. "Concrete that's eight years old is much stronger than concrete that's two years old," he says.

Concrete driveways should be at least 4 inches thick to support regular vehicles and at least 5 inches thick for heavier trucks, according to the American Concrete Pavement Association.

Concrete driveways cost more, starting around $3,500, according to costhelper.com. Angie's List members nationally reported an average price of $7,394 to pave a concrete driveway.

But concrete requires less maintenance than asphalt, Anaya says. He advises homeowners to watch for soil erosion on either side of the driveway, avoid using de-icing chemicals and opt for a sealer to protect their investment. Also, sealing cracks in the control joints running through the slab will prevent water from seeping underneath.

"With asphalt you have to recoat it every year or every other year," he says. "Concrete requires less maintenance, and it looks nicer."

Clay brick and concrete pavers

Both clay and concrete pavers feature impressive strength, says Frank Calistro, owner of Old World Brick Paving in River Grove, Ill. Concrete pavers come with a strength rating of 9,000 pounds per square inch, and 12,000 psi for clay, he says. Concrete driveways usually use 4,000 psi of cement.

However, some differences exist. Clay pavers feature a deeper, more vibrant color than concrete pavers, Calistro says. Clay pavers sometimes cost twice as much, and unlike concrete pavers, they only come in one shape, he adds.

Concrete paver driveways sometimes cost up to $14,500, while clay brick driveways can reach $28,000, according to costhelper.com.

Both require little to no upkeep, though concrete pavers require sealing every five to seven years, Calistro says. If the base was properly installed, they should last for decades, he adds.

"Pavers should outlast all asphalt and concrete," Calistro says. "It gives you better resale value for your house than asphalt or concrete."

Classing up the basics

Homeowners also can add decorative elements to concrete and asphalt driveways. One common option involves stamping a pattern into the materials, creating a faux paver. But adding a single decorative element can add thousands to the price.

Choosing a type of driveway depends on the homeowner's needs and tastes, Leggett says, admitting he's a little bit biased.

"I love the smooth dark look of asphalt, but it is certainly true that stamped and colored concrete has real beauty, as do interlocking pavers," he says. "It is good to have choices!"

NOW HERE'S A TIP

By JOANN DERSON
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■ A great idea for mini ice packs: Freeze ketchup packets you get from takeout food. They are great for icing small bumps or bug bites.

■ Spread a teaspoon of peanut butter thinly on a paper plate. Then when the dog is busy with its treat, you can trim its nails. Or sometimes just having it nearby as a promised treat can do the trick to distract your pet. Good luck!

■ "One of the things I do each spring (and fall) is to go through my makeup and toss the old items. I also restock my first-aid kit and get new bottles of sunscreen and bug spray to keep in my car kit, so I will always have it around." -- E.A. in California

■ Love beans but trying to save a little money? Don't be intimidated by dry beans; just rinse them and chuck them in the slow cooker. Add water according to package directions and cook on low for up to eight hours. After they cool, you can bag them in freezer-safe, zipper-top bags and freeze them for easy use later.

■ "On a health kick: Step one is to keep a food and activity diary for a week. You can get an idea of what you eat, what times of the day you are overeating and the areas where you can make improvements. Knowledge is power!" -- V.R. in Oregon

■ J.D. of Massachusetts writes: Mix 1/2 cup vinegar and a chamomile tea bag in a pan of medium hot water. Let cool slightly and soak feet for up to 10 minutes. Follow up with foot powder or deodorant.

Send your tips to Now Here's a Tip, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803.

Life & Style

Man in wig throws cake at glass protecting Mona Lisa

PARIS (AP)—A man seemingly disguised as an old woman in a wheelchair threw a piece of cake at the glass protecting the Mona Lisa at the Louvre Museum and shouted at people to think of planet Earth.

The Paris prosecutor's office said Monday that the 36-year-old man was detained following Sunday's incident and sent to a police psychiatric unit. An investigation has been opened into the damage of cultural artifacts.

Videos posted on social media showed a young man in a wig and lipstick who had arrived in a wheelchair. The man, whose identity was unknown, was also seen throwing roses in the museum gallery to slack-jawed guests.

The cake attack left a conspicuous white creamy smear on the glass but the famous work by Leonardo da Vinci wasn't damaged.

Security guards were filmed escorting the wig-wearing man away as he called out to the surprised visitors in the gallery: "Think of the Earth! There are people who are destroying the Earth! Think about it. Artists tell you: think of the Earth. That's why I did this."

Guards were then filmed cleaning the cake from the glass. A Louvre statement confirmed the attack on the artwork involving a "patisserie."

The 16th-century Renaissance masterpiece has seen a lot in its over-500 years in existence.

The painting was stolen in 1911 by a museum employee, an event which increased the painting's international fame. It was also damaged in an acid attack perpetrated by a vandal in the 1950s, and has since been kept behind glass.

In 2009, a Russian woman who was angry at not being able to get French citizenship threw a ceramic cup at it, smashing the cup but not harming the glass or the painting.

AP

A security guard cleans the smeared cream from the glass protecting the Mona Lisa at the Louvre Museum, in Paris, France, Sunday, May 29, 2022.

Egypt displays trove of newly discovered ancient artifacts

CAIRO (AP)—Egypt on Monday displayed a trove of ancient artifacts dating back 2,500 years that the country's antiquities authorities said were recently unearthed at the famed necropolis of Saqqara near Cairo.

The artifacts were showcased at a makeshift exhibit at the feet of the Step Pyramid of Djoser in Saqqara, 24 kilometers (15 miles) southwest of the Egyptian capital.

According to Mostafa Waziri, head of the Supreme Council of Antiquities, the find includes 250 painted sarcophagi with well-preserved mummies inside, as well as 150 bronze statues of ancient deities and bronze vessels used in rituals of Isis, the goddess of fertility in ancient Egyptian mythology, all from the Late Period, about 500 B.C.

A headless bronze statue of Imhotep, the chief architect of Pharaoh Djoser who ruled ancient Egypt between 2630 B.C. and 2611 B.C was also displayed.

The artifacts will be transferred for a permanent exhibit at the new Grand Egyptian Museum, a mega project still under construction near the famed Giza Pyramids, just outside Cairo.

The Saqqara site is part of a sprawling necropolis at Egypt's ancient capital of Memphis that includes the Giza Pyramids and the smaller pyramids at Abu Sir, Dahshur and Abu Ruwaysh. The ruins of Memphis were designated a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1970s.

Egypt has been heavily promoting recent archaeological finds, hoping to attract more tourists to the country. Its tourist sector, a major source of foreign currency, suffered from years of political turmoil

AP

Painted coffins with well-preserved mummies inside, dating back to the Late Period of ancient Egypt around 500 B.C, are displayed at a makeshift exhibit at the feet of the Step Pyramid of Djoser in Saqqara, 24 kilometers (15 miles) southwest of Cairo, Egypt, Monday, May 30, 2022.

Indian novel 'Tomb of Sand' wins International Booker Prize

LONDON (AP)—Indian writer Geetanjali Shree and American translator Daisy Rockwell won the International Booker Prize on Thursday for "Tomb of Sand," a vibrant novel with a boundary-crossing 80-year-old heroine.

Originally written in Hindi, it's the first book in any Indian language to win the high-profile award, which recognizes fiction from around the world that has been translated into English. The 50,000-pound ($63,000) prize money will be split between New Delhi-based Shree and Rockwell, who lives in Vermont.

Translator Frank Wynne, who chaired the judging panel, said the judges "overwhelmingly" chose "Tomb of Sand" after "a very passionate debate."

The book tells the story of an octogenarian widow who dares to cast off convention and confront the ghosts of her experiences during the subcontinent's tumultuous 1947 partition into India and Pakistan.

Wynne said that despite confronting traumatic events, "it is an extraordinarily exuberant and incredibly playful book."

"It manages to take issues of great seriousness—bereavement, loss, death—and conjure up an extraordinary choir, almost a cacophony, of voices," he said.

"It is extraordinarily fun and it is extraordinarily funny."

Shree's book beat five other finalists including Polish Nobel literature laureate Olga Tokarczuk, Claudia Piñeiro of Argentina and South Korean author Bora Chung to be awarded the prize at a ceremony in London.

The International Booker Prize is awarded every year to a translated work of fiction published in the U.K. or Ireland. It is run alongside the Booker Prize for English-language fiction.

Retired man takes a liking to neighbor across street

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I are retired. A short while ago, a young couple moved in across the street. A few months later, my husband, who does yardwork for neighbors for extra money, started working in theirs. He never charged them for it, and even after they had the equipment to care for their yard, continued working there some of the time.

When "Cindy," the wife, would be in the front yard, he frequently stopped his work to talk to her or stare at her. (He never stopped his work for anyone else.) Several times a week, I'd notice he was over at Cindy's mowing the yards on each side of her house and would make excuses to check to see if anything else needed to be done. He confessed to me about looking through the fence one time, and I'm sure he has done it more.

One day, I caught him standing, fixated, watching her work in the front yard, completely oblivious to his surroundings. He has told me how pretty he thinks she is, and she IS attractive. She rarely starts a conversation or comes into our yard, but he goes into hers to talk at every opportunity. If I question him about it, he either lies to me, laughs at me or yells at me. What should I do?

HUMILIATED IN TEXAS

DEAR HUMILIATED: Your husband obviously has a crush on this young, pretty neighbor. Fortunately, from what you have written, it doesn't appear to be reciprocated. If I were you, I'd develop a sense of humor about the situation. Tell him that if he's planning to run away with her, you want advance notice so you can call your lawyer. Then bide your time because these kinds of crushes usually wane.

■■■■

DEAR ABBY: A good friend of mine borrowed $5,000 because she said she was going to nursing school. I happily loaned it to her, but discovered later that she unenrolled several days after classes started. I asked her for the money back, but felt sorry for her because she was not working due to the pandemic.

Fast-forward a year: I have extensive dental work scheduled, so I finally asked her to repay me. I told her I would take payments, but I need a regular time of month, every month. She agreed to pay me back but made no mention of a timeline.

I am not sure how to approach her again. I'm not rich, and she knows it. We even shook hands on the agreement with her telling me she'd pay me back at a date that has now passed. Advice?

TOO GENEROUS IN OREGON

DEAR TOO GENEROUS: You are learning a very expensive lesson. With "friends" like this woman, you do not need enemies. Do not count on getting ANY money from her. Find another way to pay for that dental work because, without a repayment agreement IN WRITING, there's no way you can force your "good friend" to do the right thing. Something to keep in mind for the future: Do not give anyone any more money than you can afford to lose.

■■■■

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

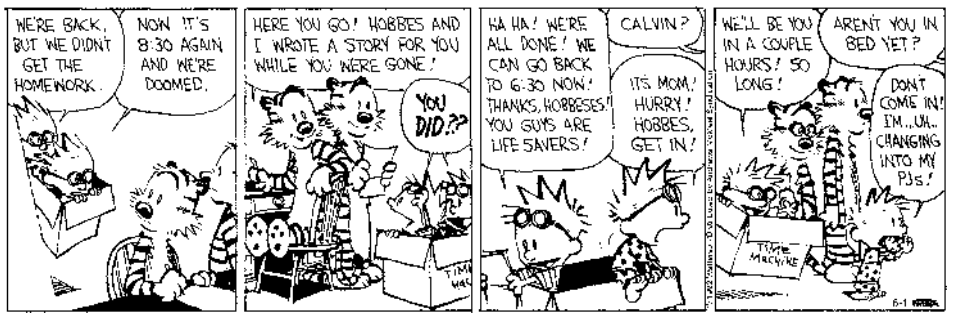
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

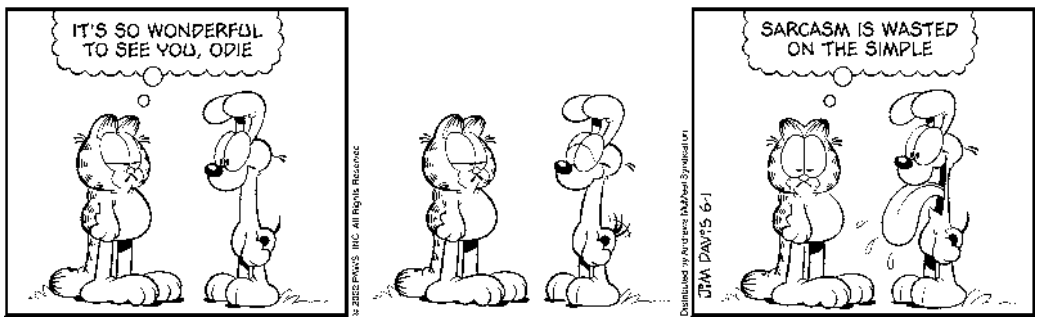
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


WE'RE BACK, BUT WE DIDN'T GET THE HOMEWORK.
NOW IT'S 8:30 AGAIN AND WE'RE DOOMED.
HERE YOU GO! HOBBES AND I WROTE A STORY FOR YOU WHILE YOU WERE GONE!
YOU DID?!?
HA HA! WE'RE ALL DONE! WE CAN GO BACK TO 6:30 NOW! THANKS, HOBBESES! YOU GUYS ARE LIFE SAVERS!
CALVIN?
IT'S MOM! HURRY! HOBBES, GET IN!
WE'LL BE YOU IN A COUPLE HOURS! SO LONG!
AREN'T YOU IN BED YET?
DON'T COME IN! I'M...UH... CHANGING INTO MY PJs!

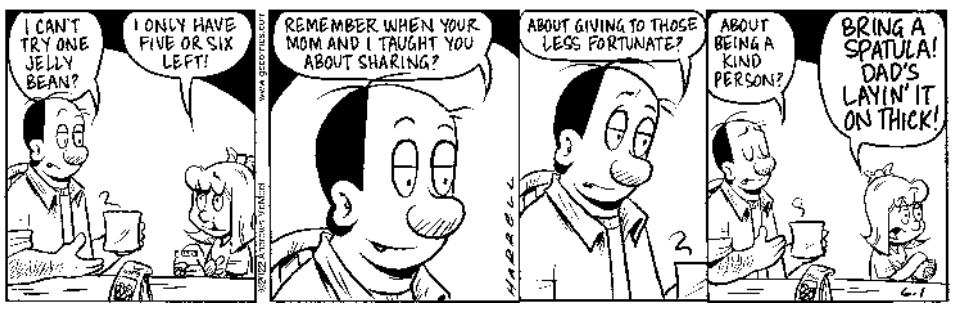
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


I CAN'T TRY ONE JELLY BEAN?
I ONLY HAVE FIVE OR SIX LEFT!
REMEMBER WHEN YOUR MOM AND I TAUGHT YOU ABOUT SHARING?
ABOUT GIVING TO THOSE LESS FORTUNATE?
ABOUT BEING A KIND PERSON?
BRING A SPATULA! DAD'S LAYIN' IT ON THICK!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

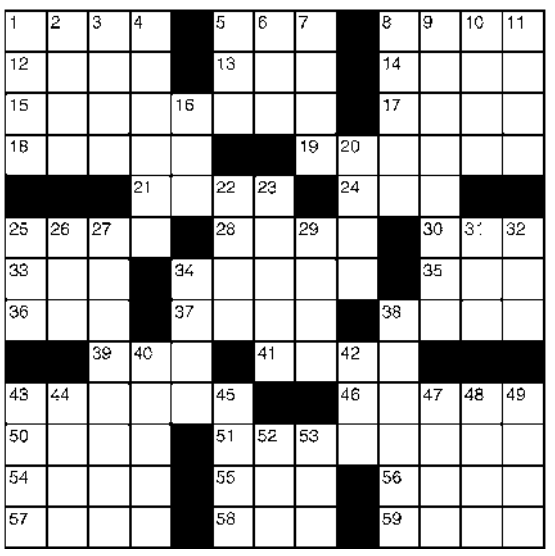
ACROSS
1 Release money
5 Spigot
8 Recipe meas.
12 Hotel chain
13 Gore and Pacino
14 Singer India.—
15 Massage parlor services
17 Funny Fey
18 Milo of "The Verdict"
19 Train rails
21 Camera part
24 Annoy
25 July birthstone
28 JFK postings
30 Tease
33 French article
34 Frog's sound
35 Rock producer Brian
36 Cravat
37 Tennis score
38 June 6, 1944
39 Agent
41 Sidewalk eatery
43 Apollo Theater locale
46 Bridge call
50 "E Pluribus —"
51 Greyhound driver's assignment
54 Highway division
55 Request
56 Serb or Croat
57 Cold War initials
58 Utter
59 Perimeter

DOWN
1 Newsom of baseball lore
2 Latin I word
3 Foot fraction
4 Probable
5 Sigma follower
6 Priestly garment
7 "Hey!"
8 Early Mongolian
9 Crayola color
10 Kitchen fixture
11 Stew veggies
16 "Norma —"
20 Jeopardize
22 Dweeb
23 Unemotional
25 Boring routine
26 Numerical prefix
27 Pre-frat-party trips
29 Delany of "Body of Proof"
31 — tizzy (worked up)
32 Lad
34 Superhero's garment
38 Take testimony from
40 Fudd of cartoons
42 Fragrant tree
43 Video-streaming site
44 Literary collections
45 Some corp. recruits
47 "— Lang Syne"
48 Male deer
49 Golfing great Ballesteros
52 "Suits" network
53 Cloud setting

Solution time: 23 mins.

J	G	I	I	■	S	F	C	■	N	O	V	A
M	A	I	D	■	I	S	U	■	O	R	F	I
A	R	T	I	F	A	C	T	■	F	E	E	L
■	■	■	O	R	T	■	S	■	A	M	P	S
S	A	M	M	Y	■	T	H	A	I	■	■	■
O	R	E	S	■	P	R	O	■	R	A	C	T
L	A	D	■	C	L	A	S	S	■	T	A	O
I	T	S	A	F	A	C	T	■	B	A	S	S
■	■	■	F	O	Y	T	■	F	A	D	E	S
E	G	G	I	S	M	■	A	■	R	■	■	■
D	A	V	E	■	A	B	S	■	R	A	C	T
A	B	E	L	■	T	A	I	■	E	F	S	E
M	E	N	D	■	E	T	A	■	L	A	I	D

Yesterday's answer 6-1



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Willow Shields, 22; Amy Schumer, 41; Heidi Klum, 49; Morgan Freeman, 85.

Happy Birthday: Assess your lifestyle and what you enjoy doing. Gather information that will help you acquire and incorporate new skills, experience and knowledge into your everyday routine. By shaking off any uncertainty or negativity you harbor, you'll find it easier to leave the past behind you. Expand your interests, and you'll find a promising way to put your attributes to good use. Your numbers are 4, 10, 19, 26, 31, 35, 48.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* You'll react too quickly. Think before you do something that makes you look bad. Keep busy, avoid trouble and get your facts straight before sharing information. Too much talk and not enough action will lead to complaints. ✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Don't judge others or make a change without considering the consequences. Formulate what you want to do, and map out a course that helps you dodge controversy and interference. A risk that affects your health or physical well-being is discouraged. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Keep your thoughts to yourself until you figure out what you want. Avoid taking on too much or letting someone talk you into shouldering added responsibilities. Be blunt about what you are willing to do or contribute. Truth matters. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* A positive attitude will encourage a better outcome. Overreaction or a display of anger will dent your reputation. Don't limit what you can learn by being close-minded. Focus on what's possible, and make your dreams come true. Self-improvement is favored. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Listen, ask questions and verify facts. Set high expectations, and take an energetic approach to achieve your goals and attain happiness. Don't let someone's uncertainty cloud your vision or push you in a direction for the wrong reason. Avoid health risks. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Experience is the best teacher. Dig in and try new things, participate in challenging exercises and test your intellect and skills. Personal gain is within reach if you are willing to put in the time and push your way to the top. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Take a moment to assess a volatile situation. Emotions will flare up and ruin your day if you aren't willing to compromise or acknowledge what others want. Look for solutions to keep the peace. Put your energy into home improvements. ✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Don't use force; use ingenuity. Think matters through to come up with alternatives. Don't worry about anyone who doesn't want to participate in your plan. Offer others the same freedom you demand from them. Romance and personal growth are favored. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Stick close to home, and do whatever it takes to use your space constructively. Building a safe and convenient place to work, grow and excel will make it easier to reach your dreams. Don't let distress rob you of accomplishment. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Have a little fun, but don't ignore your responsibilities. Working toward a rewarding goal will encourage you to make changes that fit your routine and allow you the freedom to explore possibilities. Romance will improve your day and enhance your life. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Dig in and do something that makes you feel good about yourself. Present your idea to the people you love and trust. Step away from those who ridicule you or belittle your aspirations. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Discipline will come in handy and help you terminate unhealthy situations. Revisit how you handle money, your lifestyle and love, and make changes that help you create a secure and stable future. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are outgoing, innovative and emotional. You are bold and persevering.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

							2
		1	9			3	7
	7			4		9	
	8	6	7		3		
3				6	7		
	1	9	3		4		5
	9		4		1		3
		2		5	9		4
					2	7	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 6/01

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

2	5	7	4	8	1	6	3	9
9	4	3	6	7	2	1	5	8
8	6	1	5	3	9	4	2	7
5	3	2	1	6	7	9	8	4
1	8	9	2	4	3	5	7	6
6	7	4	9	5	8	2	1	3
3	9	5	7	2	4	8	6	1
4	2	8	3	1	6	7	9	5
7	1	6	8	9	5	3	4	2

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

I LOVE MY SPANX Solution: 8 letters

S	M	S	Ⓢ	I	Z	E	S	L	F	T	R	I	K	S
E	S	Ⓞ	H	Y	T	N	A	P	E	A	E	D	A	L
H	Ⓕ	E	T	A	G	R	I	P	E	C	N	T	S	E
Ⓣ	R	D	L	S	P	G	O	R	A	A	I	C	T	E
G	U	E	E	M	U	E	O	L	R	N	I	H	Y	K
N	O	L	G	T	A	C	G	B	O	R	S	I	L	K
E	T	B	N	S	T	E	B	I	B	C	L	P	E	G
L	N	A	I	I	I	I	S	A	S	G	I	S	N	B
B	O	T	D	A	N	S	F	U	N	D	P	I	R	O
I	C	R	D	W	E	A	P	I	N	D	N	I	A	D
X	O	O	A	R	S	P	H	E	R	I	E	G	E	Y
E	T	F	P	H	O	T	T	E	L	F	Q	A	W	S
L	T	M	I	R	O	X	S	H	E	E	R	U	U	U
F	O	O	T	L	E	S	M	O	O	T	H	S	E	I
C	N	C	C	O	N	V	E	R	T	I	B	L	E	T

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Bandeau, Bodysuit, Brand, Brief, Clothing, Color, Comfortable, Compression, Contour, Convertible, Core, Cotton, Custom, Dress, Extend, Fabric, Fancy, Fashion, Fitted, Flexible, Grip, Hips, Lace, Length, Lining, Padding, Panty Hose, Satin, Seamless, Shape, Sheer, Silk, Sizes, Skirt, Sleek, Slip, Smooth, Soft, Style, Support, Unique, Waist, Wear

Yesterday's Answer: Poached

Treasuries 27, 29, 31 and 33 through 48 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

Valdez throws 2-hitter, Álvarez homers twice, Astros top A's

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)— Yordan Álvarez hit a pair of no-doubt homers, Framber Valdez pitched a two-hitter for a rare complete game and the Houston Astros beat the Oakland Athletics 5-1 on Monday.

After being held to five runs the previous four games, the Astros' bats woke up against Oakland ace Paul Blackburn (5-1).

Álvarez hit a 469-foot drive to give Houston its first run in the fourth inning against Blackburn and added a 444-foot shot to nearly the same spot in the eighth off A.J. Puk for his 14th homer of the season.

Jose Altuve also went deep with a two-run homer in the fifth that was the 174th of his career, tied with George Springer for fifth most by a Houston player.

That was more than enough support for Valdez (5-2), who threw just the seventh nine-inning complete game in the majors this season. He struck out seven, walked three and threw 114 pitches in the longest outing in his five-year career.

The A's have lost seven of 10 and trail the Astros by 12 games in the AL West, their biggest deficit in the division since being 12 back on June 16, 2019.

AP

Houston Astros' Framber Valdez pitches against an Oakland Athletics batter during the first inning of a baseball game in Oakland, Calif., Monday, May 30, 2022.

Giants 5, Phillies 4, 10 innings

In Philadelphia, Curt Casali hit a two-run homer in the 10th inning to put San Francisco over Philadelphia in a long-ball contest that extended the Phillies' losing streak to four.

Wilmer Flores and Evan Longoria also homered for the Giants. Kyle Schwarber, Nick Castellanos and Rhys Hoskins went deep for the Phillies, who lost in extra innings for the second straight day.

Philadelphia has lost 11 of 15 games and at 21-28 is seven games under .500 for the first time since the final day of 2017.

Andrew Bellatti (1-1) got the loss. Dominic Leone (3-0) pitched a scoreless ninth for the Giants for the win and Camilo Doval was credited with the save.

Rockies 7, Marlins 1

In Denver, pinch-hitter Yonathan Daza doubled to drive in three runs in the bottom of the seventh inning, helping Colorado rally past Miami.

The game also included the longest home run of the season in the MLB, a 496-foot shot in the second inning from Miami's Jesús Sánchez. It reached the third deck concourse at Coors Field.

Daza finished with four RBIs after adding a sacrifice fly in the bottom of the eighth. Garrett Hampson had a two-run triple, Brendan Rodgers singled in the bottom of the eighth inning to extend his career-long hitting streak to 17 games and Rockies first baseman Connor Joe reached base safely in his 26th straight game with a triple in the sixth inning.

Colorado starter Ryan Feltner (1-1) got his first big-league win, going seven innings and allowing four hits — including Sánchez's towering drive — while striking out six and walking one.

Miami starter Pablo López kept the Rockies in check through six scoreless innings, and Cole Sulser (0-2) came on in relief to start the seventh.

Tigers 7, Twins 5

In Detroit, Jonathan Schoop became the third player from Curaçao with 1,000 major league hits and finished a home run shy of the cycle to help Detroit beat Minnesota in the opener of a five-game series.

Schoop, a 30-year-old infielder in his 10th big league season, singled in the third inning, doubled in the fifth for his 1,000th hit and tripled leading off the seventh as part of a 3-for-5 afternoon. He joined Andruw Jones (1,933) and Andrelton Simmons (1,163 through Sunday) as players from Curaçao with 1,000 hits,

Rookie Spencer Torkelson, another slumping Tigers player, had his first three-hit game with two singled and a double. His seventh-inning RBI infield single off Joe Smith (0-1) put the Tigers ahead 5-4 and Willi Castro followed with another-run scoring single.

Gio Urshela cut the deficit with an RBI double in the eighth against Alex Lange, and Javier Báez had a run-scoring single in the bottom half to restore a two-run lead.

Detroit overcame a 3-1 deficit and scored more than four runs for the first time since May 15.

Joe Jiménez (2-0) pitched 1 1/3 scoreless innings of one-hit relief. Gregory Soto got his ninth save in 10 chances.

Cardinals 6, Padres 3

In St. Louis, Nolan Gorman hit a go-ahead, two-run homer, rookie Andre Pallante got his first big league win in his 17th appearance and St. Louis beat San Diego.

Paul Goldschmidt also hit two-run homer for the Cardinals. He has a 21-game hitting streak and has reached base safely in a career-high 35 consecutive games, the longest streak in the major leagues this season.

Gorman, a 22-year-old who was the 19th overall pick in the 2018 amateur draft, made his major-league debut on May 20 and hit his first home run Saturday off Milwaukee's Adrian Houser. On Monday, Gorman homered on a changeup from Nick Martinez (2-3) for a 2-1 lead in the third inning, had his second three-hit game and is batting .387.

Pallante allowed one run and five hits over 3 1/3 innings with a career-high five strikeouts and no walks.

Martinez gave up three runs and seven hits in six innings.

Rangers 9, Rays 5

In Arlington, Texas, Rangers center fielder Eli White made a sensational leaping catch to take away a three-run homer from Ji-Man Choi in the first inning, and later hit a long home run in Texas' win over Tampa Bay.

White sprinted to the warning track in left-center and timed his jump perfectly. His upper body was well above the 6-foot wall fronting the Rays bullpen and his left arm fully extended above his head when he made the grab more than 400 feet from home plate.

Rookie right-hander Glenn Otto (3-2) exited with a 9-2 lead. Jonah Heim also homered and Kole Calhoun drove in three runs for Texas.

Rays starter Drew Rasmussen (5-2) walked the first three batters he faced.

Guardians 7, Royals 3

In Cleveland, Andrés Giménez hit a three-run homer in the eighth inning off rookie Collin Snider, sending Cleveland over an injury-riddled Kansas City team.

Giménez's shot to center field off Snider (3-2) scored pinch-runner Ernie Clement and rookie Oscar Gonzalez, who singled in the inning to make up for a gaffe earlier when he threw the ball into the stands with two outs.

José Ramírez hit his 13th homer and drove in three more runs for the Guardians, raising his major league-leading total to 51 RBIs.

Nick Sandlin (4-2) got the win in relief.

Emmanuel Rivera homered for the Royals, who rallied in the eighth but couldn't stop from falling to 16-31 — the AL's worst record.

Pirates 6, Dodgers 5

In Los Angeles, Michael Perez hit a tying single in the ninth inning and pinch-runner Michael Chavis scored the go-ahead run on Freddie Freeman's error at first base to give Pittsburgh a wild win over Los Angeles.

The Dodgers scored twice in the eighth to take their only lead before the Pirates charged right back against closer Craig Kimbrel (0-1), handed his first blown save this season.

The Pirates have beaten the Dodgers in three of four games this month. Pittsburgh manager Derek Shelton earned his 100th career victory.

David Bednar (2-1) struck out Will Smith with two on to end it. The loss snapped the Dodgers' four-game winning streak.

Tucupita Marcano hit a three-run homer, his first in the majors, and Bryan Reynolds also connected off starter Walker Buehler to give Pittsburgh an early 4-0 lead.

Hanser Alberto and Mookie Betts launched back-to-back homers for the Dodgers.

Diamondbacks 6, Braves 2

In Phoenix, Pavin Smith hit a three-run homer, Zac Gallen had another strong start on the mound and Arizona beat Atlanta.

Arizona took a 6-2 lead in the fifth, scoring three runs a few minutes after manager Torey Lovullo was thrown out of the game for arguing. Ketel Marte had a two-out, two-run double and David Peralta followed with an RBI single that brought home Marte.

All three runs scored after the Braves should have been out of the inning: Gold Glove first baseman Matt Olson dropped a throw that would have completed an inning-ending double play.

Gallen (4-0) gave up two runs over 5 2/3 innings, scattering seven hits and two walks while striking out six. The right-hander has a 2.32 ERA this season through nine starts.

Spencer Strider (1-2) made his first career start for the Braves after 13 career appearances out of the bullpen.

Mets 13, Nationals 5

In New York, Starling Marte and Nick Plummer each homered and finished with four RBIs as New York rode an early offensive outburst to rout Washington.

The top three batters in the Mets' order — Luis Guillorme, Marte and Francisco Lindor — combined to reach base in their first nine plate appearances, all of which occurred in the first three innings against Nationals starter Erick Fedde (3-4) and reliever Andres Machado.

New York trailed 3-0 after a half-inning but led 12-4 after the fourth.

The Met piled up 16 hits and matched their season high for runs. Colin Holderman (2-0) earned the win with 1 1/3 innings of one-run ball in relief of David Peterson, who was pulled one out shy of qualifying for the win.

Orioles 10, Red Sox 0

In Boston, Tyler Wells pitched six smooth innings of two-hit ball and Baltimore got early homers from Ryan Mountcastle and Ramón Urías to beat Boston.

Anthony Santander sealed Baltimore's third win in the five-game series with a three-run homer in the ninth.

Wells (2-4) struck out three and matched his career best in innings, allowing only a single by Trevor Story in the second and Xander Bogaerts' double in the fourth.

Wells outpitched Boston veteran Rich Hill (2-2), who was in trouble from the start. Hill threw 92 pitches in four-plus innings, allowing six earned runs on seven hits and two walks. He struck out five.

Brewers 7, Cubs 6, game 1
Brewers 3, Cubs 1, game 2

In Chicago, Tyrone Taylor homered in both games, Aaron Ashby (1-3) struck out a career-high 12 in the nightcap and Milwaukee swept a doubleheader at Chicago.

Luis Urías lined three-run homer into the basket in left-center to break a seventh-inning tie in the opener. The Brewers trailed 4-2 before Taylor's two-run homer in the sixth off Matt Swarmer, and Milwaukee led 2-1 in the second game when Taylor homered off left-hander Brandon Hughes in the eighth.

Victor Caratini hit a tie-breaking home run in the fifth inning against his former team, and the Brewers won their third in a row while getting just three hits in the nightcap. The Cubs extended their losing streak to three.

Ashby (1-3) allowed one run and five hits six-plus innings, giving up Willson Contreras' home run. Josh Hader remained perfect in 18 save chances by getting his second of the day.

Chicago's Drew Smyly pitched three hitless innings and left because of right oblique soreness at the start of the fourth. Anderson Espinoza (0-1), a 24-year-old right-hander making his major league debut, allowed two runs and two hits in four innings.

Miguel Sánchez (1-1) gave up one hit in two scoreless innings.

Al Horford's wait over, NBA Finals moment looms with Celtics

MIAMI (AP)—The game was over. So, finally, was Al Horford's journey. He grabbed what would be the final rebound of the Eastern Conference finals, threw the ball skyward, sprinted to join his teammates in celebration and then dropped to his knees to slap the floor.

His time has come.

The oldest player — by six years — on the Boston Celtics' roster will savor this trip to the NBA Finals in ways that his teammates simply cannot. He will finally play in the title series, with the Celtics set to open the matchup against the Golden State Warriors on Thursday night, one day before Horford's 36th birthday.

"Nobody deserves it more," Boston guard Jaylen Brown said.

Nobody in the history of the NBA has played more playoff games without making the finals than Horford; Sunday night's 100-96 East title-clinching win in Miami was his 141st postseason appearance. When the ball is tipped in San Francisco for the start of Celtics-Warriors, that dubious distinction becomes Paul Millsap's possession; he's been in 130 playoff games, none in the finals.

Horford didn't know what the moment — making the finals — would be like. Turns out, it was better than he envisioned.

AP

Boston Celtics center Al Horford (42) falls to his knees after winning Game 7 of the NBA basketball Eastern Conference finals playoff series against the Miami Heat, Sunday, May 29, 2022, in Miami.

"Just didn't know how to act," Horford said. "Just caught up, excited. A lot of hard work. I've been a part of a lot of great teams, a lot of great teammates, and I'm so proud of this group. ... I'm really grateful to be in this position."

Horford had a previous three-year stint in Boston, making the East finals twice, before signing with Philadelphia and eventually getting moved to Oklahoma City. He didn't play much for the Thunder, and they traded him last summer back to Boston — a move that worked out better than even the Celtics hoped.

His averages so far in these playoffs: 11.9 points, 9.6 rebounds and 3.5 assists while playing nearly 37 minutes per contest.

"Al could care less about the numbers," Celtics guard Marcus Smart said. "He cares about the wins and this team. When he came back, that gave us a sense of security. We got Al back there, he's always going to make the right play on both ends, he's going to calm us down, he's going to show us what we missed and he's going to help us learn the game even more."

Horford isn't Boston's best player. But make no mistake: He is the leader. In practices, timeouts, the locker room, wherever, his voice resonates.

"It's incredible what he's done all season," coach Ime Udoka said. "As I mentioned, came into training camp in extremely great shape, chip on his shoulder, prideful, wanted to come back to Boston. ... He lays it all out there guarding bigs, smalls and everything in between. His leadership goes without saying."

Winning the East title was hard enough, going through a No. 1 seed like Miami and having to win a Game 7 on the road.

That told only part of the story.

Horford wasn't himself in Game 6 on Friday night, when Boston had a chance to clinch the series on its home floor, and for understandable reasons. His grandfather died the day before, though family members urged Horford to keep playing.

"My grandfather was somebody that I was extremely close with, somebody that I really care for," Horford said. "All week my mom, my family were just kind of telling me to just go out there and play. That's something that he would have wanted me to do, to just continue on and really just try and stay focused and understand that he's at peace now."

There was grief. There was joy. The last few days have been quite the emotional pendulum for Horford.

But maybe it was fitting that the NBA Finals ticket came his way in Miami, given that he played his college ball at Florida and is a hero in his native Dominican Republic — where countless people have become Celtics fans again because of him.

"We're here in Miami really close to the DR. Everybody is watching. The country was watching," Horford said. "I know everybody was there. They were sending me pictures, they were ready for this, and we're enjoying this time."

Before long, though, he was already thinking ahead. The celebration in Miami had to end. A new challenge — the ultimate challenge for a basketball player, the one for an NBA title — awaits.

Finally.

"His energy, his demeanor, coming in every day, being a professional, taking care of his body, being a leader, I'm proud to be able to share this moment with a veteran, a mentor, a brother, a guy like Al Horford, man," Brown said. "He's been great all season, really my whole career. I'm happy to be able to share this moment with somebody like him."

For Heat, no championship made season feel like 'a waste'

MIAMI (AP)—A frustrated Bam Adebayo tore his jersey apart as he walked off the court after the final buzzer. Erik Spoelstra made no effort to hide his sadness about how the Miami Heat's season ended. Kyle Lowry said the year was wasted.

The hope was to spend Tuesday flying to the NBA Finals.

Instead, the Heat enter an offseason of decisions.

A team that was assembled with a singular goal of winning a championship will spend the coming months lamenting a chance that slipped away. Miami's season ended with a Game 7 home loss to the Boston Celtics in the Eastern Conference finals, denying the Heat a second trip to the NBA Finals in the last three seasons.

"You don't know how many more opportunities you will have to get back to this, so for me, honestly, it was a waste of a year," Lowry said after his first season with the Heat ended. "I only play to win championships. It was fun, and I appreciate the guys, my teammates, and I appreciate the opportunity. But for me, it's a waste of a year. You're not winning a championship, it's a wasted year."

The Heat had the best record in the East during the regular season, 53-29. They did it without a player who was voted onto the All-NBA teams — Miami was only the sixth No. 1 seed in the last four decades without a first-, second- or third-team selection.

"You fight so hard, throughout the season, ups and downs, injuries, disrespect and you still find a way to come this close," said Adebayo, the Miami center who was in the running for defensive player of the year. "It's rough."

The NBA award votes were cast when the regular season ended. Had the playoffs counted, Jimmy Butler would have been voted All-World. He joined LeBron James as the only two players in Heat history to have a year with at least eight 30-point playoff games during the first three rounds, capping his playoff run with a 47-point season saver in Game 6 at Boston and then 35 more in the finale.

"We had enough," Butler said. "Next year, we will have enough and we're going to be right back in the same situation, and we're going to get it done."

If the Heat had won Game 7 over Boston, nobody knows who they even would have had available to face Golden State in the NBA Finals. Tyler Herro, who was named sixth man of the year, was dealing with a groin injury. Power forward P.J. Tucker couldn't finish Game 7, after lumbering through much of the postseason with leg issues. Lowry's hamstring hasn't been right for more than a month. Butler clearly was ailing though insisted he was fine.

"It feels heartbreaking," said Spoelstra, who finished his 14th season as Heat coach. "We just wanted a crack at it. A crack at Golden State, and just find out, you know, as competitors. I love this group. This team was here to compete for a title. In that regard, I think we lived up to those expectations. But we fell short. We'll never know, and that's the part that we'll have to live with."

HERRO EXTENSION

Herro didn't have great postseason numbers, in at least some part because of the groin issue, but had a year that likely exceeded expectations overall. He wasn't bothered by not starting and understood that the sixth man role has always been a vital part of Spoelstra's game plans. He is eligible for a contract extension now going into Year 4, and a clear priority for the Heat this summer is figuring out how much they'll be able to pay Herro starting with the 2023-24 season when the new deal will kick in.

TUCKER'S FUTURE

Tucker is 37, undersized to be a power forward at 6-foot-5 and has never averaged 10 points in an NBA season. That's often not a great combination. But — assuming Tucker opts out of the second year of his Heat deal, as would seem to make sense — it would be shocking if Miami didn't fight to keep him, given the enormous impact he made on the Heat in his first year with the club. Spoelstra loves what he brings, as does the rest of the locker room.

THE ROBINSON DILEMMA

Duncan Robinson — a 3-point specialist who has often flourished in his Miami tenure — got a contract worth about $18 million per season last summer, lost his stroke at times this year, then lost his starting spot and ultimately his rotation spot. He scored 27 points in the Heat postseason opener back in April, then scored 46 points in the 17 games Miami played over the rest of the playoffs (and didn't even get into five of those). It won't be a surprise if he's a trade chip if the Heat, as they often do, test the market in search of major upgrades.

UNDRAFTED FINDS

Including playoffs, the Heat got 4,171 points this season from undrafted players — the most by any NBA team in the last 50 years. Max Strus and Gabe Vincent were both key parts of the rotation and remain with the Heat on team-friendly deals for next season.

DRAFT ASSETS

Miami has the No. 27 pick in this year's draft. The Heat forfeited their second-round pick as part of the penalty levied by the NBA after an investigation found that the team began pursuing Lowry last summer before league rules allow.

Putt Buddies wins 2022 Wollak Golf Cup

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Fifteen teams comprised of 60 players joined the 2022 Wollak Golf Cup held last Sunday at the Kingfisher Golf Links in Talafofo.

By BEA CABRERA
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CORRESPONDENT

Putt Buddies topped the 13th Annual Wollak Golf Cup by conquering the green and fairways of the Kingfisher Golf Links in Talafofo last Sunday.

The team made up of Lom Linden, Dominic Kieffer, Nick Kelley, and Edward Manibusan took advantage of the 83-degree weather and shot a score of 72 2/3 to top a field of 15 teams that comprised a total of 60 players.

The Wollak Golf Cup is known to gather golf enthusiasts around the islands to play under looser mechanics that was made to make it more fun and to raise funds for the benefit of Saipan Cares For Animals.

The Best Dressed Team award went to sCrATch playa'z that included Tina Goodwin, Angie Mister, Elly Lee, and Kyunga Park.

Dan Wollak, founder of the Wollak Golf Cup and a PE teacher at Marianas High School, said each year the tournament just keeps on growing.

"Early on we didn't have any sponsors, a raffle, catered food, or anything like that. Three years ago, I decided to make the tournament a fundraiser for Saipan Cares for Animals. The $10 of the entrance fee goes to Saipan Cares for Animals," he said.

"With the generous donations from our sponsors we were able to start adding a raffle as well and all raffle proceeds go to Saipan Cares for Animals. We also had some of the golfers donate extra to Saipan Cares and donate their prize money to the organization," he added.

This year, the Wollak Golf Cup raised a total of $1,019 for SCA.

"I am a dog lover and many people in the tournament are pet owners as well. Saipan Cases is vital to all pet owners here and I really appreciate what Saipan Cares does for our community. With the entrance fee, donations, and raffle we were able to donate $1,019 to Saipan Cares for Animals," Wollak said

"I couldn't think of a better organization to give that money to. I know it will go to good use and we have been able to give them over $3,500 over the past three tournaments," he added

Every year the Wollak Golf Cup presents different experiences and many unforgettable one.

"My highlight is just seeing happy golfers. You could hear a lot of hooting and hollering on the course throughout the round. I got a lot of great feedback during the awards ceremony from the players saying they look forward to playing in the tournament every year and appreciate that the golfers were so generous with their donations. From Charlie Peters' last place team to Tom Linden's first place team, everyone seemed to have a blast and at the end of the day, that is my ultimate goal," Wollak said.

The Wollak Golf Cup's major sponsors are MARPAC, which for the third straight year donated drinks and merchandise for the awards ceremony; Top Shelf Wine and Spirits, which donated wine, cigars, and golf balls for the raffle; and Skydive Saipan, which donated a free skydive or WACO plane ride as the grand prize for the raffle. The other sponsors that provided prizes for the raffle include McDonald's, Shell, IT&E, Marianas Trekking, and Kingfisher Golf Links.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	33	15	.688	_
Tampa Bay	28	20	.583	5
Toronto	27	20	.574	5½
Boston	23	26	.469	10½
Baltimore	21	29	.420	13

Central Division

Minnesota	29	20	.592	_
Chicago	23	23	.500	4½
Cleveland	20	24	.455	6½
Detroit	18	29	.383	10
Kansas City	16	31	.340	12

West Division

Houston	31	18	.633	_
Los Angeles	27	22	.551	4
Texas	23	24	.489	7
Seattle	20	28	.417	10½
Oakland	20	31	.392	12

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

New York	33	17	.660	_
Atlanta	23	26	.469	9½
Philadelphia	21	28	.429	11½
Miami	19	27	.413	12
Washington	18	32	.360	15

Central Division

Milwaukee	32	18	.640	_
St. Louis	27	21	.563	4
Pittsburgh	20	27	.426	10½
Chicago	19	29	.396	12
Cincinnati	16	31	.340	14½

West Division

Los Angeles	33	15	.688	_
San Diego	30	18	.625	3
San Francisco	26	21	.553	6½
Arizona	24	26	.480	10
Colorado	22	26	.458	11

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

UOG Tritons fall in 9th against Rangers

GUAM—The University of Guam Tritons fell again in a 9-8 nail-biter against the Talo'fo'fo Rangers in the Guam Major League last Monday at the Paseo Stadium in Agana.

The Rangers got a head start against the Tritons, scoring once in the first and 4 runs in the second, making the score 5-0 at the end of two innings. However, the Tritons fought back in the bottom of the third to make the score 5-2, with a run by Jonas Shmull and Jathan Muña-Barnes.

At the end of the fifth, the score was 6-2 Rangers. The sixth was when the fireworks began, and the Tritons started to inch back into the game. In the top of the sixth, the Rangers brought in a run from Andrew Taijeron and Rolen Rabago to increase their lead to 8-2.

The Tritons switched pitchers in the bottom of the sixth, bringing in Roke Alcantara Jr. to close the top of the inning. Rico Seman started the bottom of the sixth with a double. With two outs, Jarren Gumataotao stepped up to the plate and hits a single RBI to center field, bringing the game to 8-3. Next up, Darren Eclavea hits a single to left field. Alcantara came next to continue the hitting streak for the Tritons, hitting a single RBI to left field, bringing in Gumataotao. With the game at 8-4, R.J. Miner hits a single RBI to left field, bringing home Eclavea. With the game at 8-5, back to the top of the lineup with Muña-Barnes, a wild pitch sends Alcantara home and sends Miner to third. Muña-Barnes gets out to end the inning as he hits a deep ball to right field. At the end of the sixth, the score was 8-6.

Tritons come back in the bottom of the eighth, first up, Gumataotao hits a triple, and an error at third base sends him home on the play. With two outs, Miner hits a single with a deep hit to right field. Muña-Barnes hits a single to left field, bringing Miner to third base. With an error at first base, Miner comes home to tie the game at 8-8.

Top of the ninth, game tied at 8-8, Dave Santiago hits a grounder, and an error at shortstop makes him safe at first base. With two outs, Andrew Taijeron went up to bat and hits a single to center field, bringing Santiago to third. Rabago hits a single RBI to left field bringing home Santiago, giving the Rangers the 9-8 win.

Losing pitcher Alcantara allowed five hits in the game but struck out four batters. Jarren Gumataotao went 2-3 with a triple and an RBI for the Tritons. Andrew Taijeron led the Rangers, hitting 2-3 with two runs. Higgins gets the win for the Rangers with four strikeouts.

The Tritons fell to 4-2 in the GML and moved into a tie for fourth place. The Rangers improve to 4-4 on the season, moving to seventh in the GML.

The Tritons will play again on Tuesday, June 7, beginning 7pm as they take on Linda's Yankees at Paseo Stadium. ***(PR)***

BILLIE

From Page 20

win Minis II and with perfect scores. I have raced Minis II but only in one heat, receiving only 25 points."

Pangelinan dedicated her double wins in May to her coach, Ellery Cruz, Team Ericco, Pokka, YCO True Value, Marianas Native, Joeten Motors, Herman's Bakery, and of course her family.

"They're my No. 1 supporters!" while adding that she's also dedicating her victory to fallen heroes of the CNMI on the occasion of Memorial Day.

In the Mini I Class, Jonoah Santos took the checkered flag with 45 points, followed by Harley Susulin and Stanley Iakopo Jr. who came in second and third with 44 points and 43 points, respectively.

Bentley Koshiro ruled the Peewee I Class with a perfect 50 points, while Roseha Untalan came in second with 44 points and Ryan Borja third with 40 points.

In the Peewee II Class, Conan Iakopo topped the division with a perfect 50 points. Keenon Togawa finished second with 44 points, while Kaleb Reyes round out the Top 3 with 40 points.

The results of the Peewee ATV, Mini ATV, Big Boy ATV, Veterans, Novice, Intermediate, and Expert classes will be published in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune.*

NZ

From Page 20

Meanwhile, Mini Games Organizing Committee chair Marco Peter said he's saddened that New Zealand won't be able to send its athletes to the CNMI for the Mini Games this month.

"I am disappointed that one of the biggest countries in the region isn't able to participate. Shall we blame it on the pandemic?" he said.

Not to worry though as despite New Zealand skipping the Mini Games, Peter assured that some form of the haka, a ceremonial dance in Māori culture used to prepare warriors for war, will still be present in some form or another as island nations with heavy Māori influence like Wallis & Futuna, Tahiti, and Samoa have versions of the dance and might perform it during the Games.

HOOPS

From Page 20

ers Market, Bolis Kagman Marianas, Fast Food, Inc., Roil Soil, All-Star Sporting Goods, PHI Pharmacy, McDonald's Saipan & Guam, Ming Yang Supermarket, MARPAC, Joeten Enterprises, CYC, and Twins Market

Last May 21, K-2 Ballers protected homecourt by winning the Precinct 5 Hoops and Vibes Basketball Tournament at the expense of Young Doom, 55-37.

The boys of coach Tom Pangelinan only needed to win Game 1 to annex the championship outright after going undefeated the entire tournament.

K-2 Ballers advanced to the finals following a 45-40 escape of Homies, while Young Doom booked its championship berth following a 37-33 nipping of Utu Bangers.

In the awards ceremony immediately following the finals, Garret Mariano was adjudged the finals MVP and best scorer of the tourney, while teammate Kaipo Dikito was named the top 3-point marksman.

The co-ed youth basketball tournament started with eight teams and featured boys and girls between 14 and 18 years old in full-court 5-v-5 action.

For more information about the Hoops and Vibes Basketball Tournament, call Rep. Leila Staffler's office at (670) 664-8892 or via email at rep.staffler@gmail.com.

Valdez throws 2-hitter, Álvarez homers twice, Astros top A's

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Sports

Putt Buddies wins 2022 Wollak Golf Cup

PAGE 19

Billie wins two classes in May race

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Billie Inabo Pangelinan was victorious in not one but two classes in the May edition of the 2022 Monster Energy Point Series Race last Sunday at the Cowtown Race Track.

The 13-year-old pocket rocket from Dandan Middle School topped her usual Power Puff Girls Class but also added the Mini II Class in last month's edition of the Marianas Racing Association competition.

Pangelinan went perfect in the Power Puff Girls Class after winning both heats for 50 points. Nanako Celis came in second on both races for 44 points, while Miyako Celis completed the Top 3 with 38 points.

She was at it again in the Mini II Class, winning for the first time in the division with another perfect run with 50 points. Vicente Palacios came second with 40 points, while third place went to T.J. Ferrer, who also had 40 but trailed Palacios in the second heat.

Pangelinan attributed her victories in the Power Puff Girls and Mini II divisions to some timely coaching.

"I just took the tips my coach Ellery Cruz gave me and used them on the track. I just wanted to have fun!"

She admitted that her success in the Mini II Class last Sunday was a pleasant surprise.

"This is my first time to

See BILLIE on Page 19

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Billie Inabo Pangelinan is seen here in action during the 2022 Monster Energy Point Series Race last Sunday at the Cowtown Race Track.

Minogue: NZ committed to Commonwealth Games

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Pacific Games Council CEO Andrew Minogue recently disclosed the reason why New Zealand isn't sending a delegation to the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 and it's not because they're ceremonial haka dance might be upstaged by the CNMI's stick dance.

"New Zealand is not coming in their three invited sports because they are committed to the Commonwealth Games in the United Kingdom in July," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

The sports Minogue was alluding to are athletics, weightlifting, and beach volleyball.

In contrast to the Kiwis, the Pacific Games Council CEO is happy that Oceania powerhouse Australia stuck with its commitment and will be sending a delegation to the 11th staging of the Mini Games that the CNMI will be hosting for the first time ever.

"We have very good support from Australia in athletics and weightlifting. The only invitation they did not take up was in beach volleyball," he said.

In all, Australia will be sending 19 athletes to the Mini Games—14 for athletics and five for weightlifting.

In an interview last February, Minogue was still optimistic of New Zealand taking part in the 2022 Mini Games.

"For New Zealand, they will be communicating directly with the games organizing committee as they will be soon reaching out to the individual federations that will be attending. However, my understanding is they will be sending beach volleyball and weightlifting," he earlier said.

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Pacific Games Council CEO Andrew Minogue, leftmost, during April's press conference at the NMSA conference room following his and PGC president Vidya Lakhan's visit to the CNMI. Second from left is Lakhan, while Northern Marianas Sports Association president Jerry Tan and Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games Organizing Committee chair Marco Peter, right, look on.

Hoops & Vibes tourney thanks sponsors

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Reps. Leila Staffler (D-Saipan), second from left, and Richard Lizama (D-Saipan), right, pose with champion team K-2 Ballers and runner-up Young Doom following the finals of the Precinct 5 Hoops and Vibes Basketball Tournament last May 21 at the Kagman Community Center hardcourt.

Reps. Leila Staffler (D-Saipan) and Richard Lizama (D-Saipan) thanked everyone who made the recent Precinct 5 Hoops and Vibes Basketball Tournament under the lights at the Kagman Community Center hardcourt a success.

"Thanks in large part to our volunteers and sponsors, eight teams of players, and countless spectators who enjoyed the Precinct 5 Hoops and Vibes Basketball Tournament, we would like to express our gratitude for the generous contributions from Kagman Broth-

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